# MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE FARM, THE GARDEN, THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

AND NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURE.

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## Editorial.

### SUPERPHOSPHATE.

Among the modern commercial fertilizers a well made superphosphate of lime is, perhaps, the most accessible, and on the whole, the most convenient of application. If there have been instances of failure, they are to be ascribed, in most, if not in all cases, to the poor quality of the article, or to an improper application. That a well made article is an excellent fertilizer, no one who has given it a fair trial would pretend to deny.

Now what is a good superphosphate? Prof. Voelcker, who has made a very careful analysis of the various fertilizers to be found in the English market, applied a superphosphate to Swedes at the rate of three hundred pounds to the acre, and found it to produce a yield over similar unmanured land, of four tons five hundred weight one quarter and twenty pounds per acre, an increase, sufficient certainly to pay liberally for the cost of the manure and leave a large margin of profit besides.

The chemical composition of this superphosphate was found to be as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Water | 10.80 |
| Organic matter | 4.21 |
| Sulphate of lime | 29.26 |
| Phosphate of lime (soluble) | (18.63) |
| Insoluble phosphates | 4.11 |
| Combined sulphate of lime (gypsum) | 46.63 |
| Soluble salts | 10.78 |
| Insoluble siliceous matter (sand) | 3.19 |
| | 100.00 |

A careful examination of this article shows it to be a very excellent specimen of superphosphate, and if we could be sure of buying an article equal in composition to that, we should not hesitate to buy and use it, and we should have full confidence in the result. It will be noticed that the analysis shows but a slight percentage of ammonia, which appeared in the organic matter, which was found to contain but .34 of one per cent, which was equal to .41 of one per cent of ammonia. It shows a good quantity of salt, which adds efficacy to any manure, but it is the soluble phosphates that we rely upon chiefly, and these, in a good superphosphate, are always abundant.

Bones, which usually constitute the basis of the article, are slow in their action, and even when ground fine, it takes them a long time to act. They must go through a process of decomposition before they become available to plants, and before this time we look for results, but seldom find them. Treated with sulphuric acid they become soluble, and act much quicker and more efficiently, and so more satisfactorily than the finely ground bone can be expected to do. This explains why the experiments with the flour of bone were so uniformly unsatisfactory two or three years ago, when it was introduced and extensively advertised as the best and cheapest manure in the market. Farmers who bought it at $60 or $80 per ton did not see it in that light, and they could not account for their failures, as, theoretically, they had a right to believe in bones. They found they must wait too long for results. True economy implies quick returns, and these they did not get and so they were doomed to disappointment.

Now if the flour of bone had been judiciously treated with sulphuric acid before it was offered to the public, if it had, in fact, been put into the form of superphosphate, the results would have been more satisfactory. If not more lasting, they would have been so much more prompt and remunerative that people would have been better pleased.

With all the care and economy of barnyard manures that it is possible for the farmer to exercise, he cannot often make and save so much as he requires to use on the farm. Probably nine out of ten of the farmers of New England find themselves short of manure. They have not so much as they want, and would be glad to know where they can go to eke out a supply. And even if they have enough to apply to their cultivated crops, they seem to want something to put in the hill to give the crops a start. Pure guano is high and the patent manures do not command implicit confidence. The question comes, "what can I buy?" In such cases a well and honestly made superphosphate is one of the best things to be had, and what the farmer wants is a sufficient guaranty that the article is honest and good. If there is confidence in the article, it will sell, and if it is made as it ought to be, the results will be good and satisfactory.

If a manufacturer of the article will make it as well as he knows how, he will not long wait for a market. The demand will increase as long as the quality of the superphosphate is kept up to the standard. And when a reputation is gained, no temptation to make a greater profit should lead him to reduce the standard of quality. Keep it up. Better sell less of a thoroughly good article, than to make and sell more of an inferior one.

We do not suppose that the manufacturers of superphosphate are less honest than other people. Honesty with them, as with all other business men, is not only the best, but the only policy, that will enable them to build up and sustain a good and permanent business. No doubt they see this and act upon it, but they have to guard against too great hurry in the preparation. When the demand is active they are driven, perhaps, to their utmost capacity of production, and without great care their samples will not be uniform. We repeat what we said above, that a good article of superphosphate is a good and economical manure and will find a ready and steady sale.

### PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.

The publication of Professor Gamgee's report on the lung plague, or contagious pleuro-pneumonia of cattle, and the continued efforts made by that gentleman, have led Congress, who have gone so far as to accompany him into Virginia, and see him examine sick cows alive and dead. Although it was reported that Georgetown and Kendal's Green near Washington, had not recently been visited by the disease, Professor Gamgee has traced it on Irish Hill and in Swampoodle in Washington, as well as on the Arlington turnpike to Alexandria, Va., and further on to Fairfax, and other counties. The disease has a sure foothold there, and it must be hoped that the action of Congress in ensuring the publication of accurate reports will lead to a united effort North, South, East and West, to wipe out this scourge from the American continent. We know it can be done, for we have effectually cleared our State, and no effort must be spared to stimulate Congress and State authorities in a task of such paramount national importance. Professor Gamgee must be supported everywhere in his endeavors to check the progress of epiglottis, and if he needs assistance in his work he should be permitted to secure it at any cost wherever he can get it best. Above all let us not forget what he says about encouraging the foundations of Veterinary Colleges in America.

### STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The State Board held its annual business meeting at the office of the Secretary, at the State House, beginning on the 28th and adjourning on the 4th inst. The attendance was full, and the time fully occupied in hearing and discussing reports and essays. Many of those essays were of a high and useful character and will appear in the Secretary's report. In addition to the elections already announced, Mr. Lewis H. Bradford, of Fitchburg, is elected in place of Thomas Billings, of Lunenburg, by the Worcester North Society. Mr. J. T. Ellsworth, of Barre, has been elected in place of C. Sanderson, Esq., of Phillipston, by the Worcester West Society, and George T. Plunkett, Esq., of Hinsdale, elected in place of M. F. Watkins, Esq., of the same town by the Highland Society.

### HENS EATING OXIDE OF IRON.

A friend of ours, Mr. Walter A. Kezar of Salem, has recently lost a dozen valuable hens in a most curious manner, and from facts that have just come to our knowledge with regard to the same kind of losses, or losses with the same symptoms, we suspect it is not of very rare occurrence. Mr. Kezar noticed his hens dying very suddenly, dropping from their roosts, and appearing in great pain. On cutting them open and examining their crops, he found quantities of the rusty scales that came out of an old stove pipe in cleaning it out. The scales varied in size from the bigness of the finger nail down, and they seemed to stick in the crop. It is probable that the cause of death was the inflammation created by these scales and not any poisonous property in them. No remedy could have been applied to remove these scales, but the only way to save the fowls would be to cut open the crop, take them out and sew it up again. This operation may generally be performed without the loss of a hen.

This case suggests the importance of guarding against the recurrence of it elsewhere, by keeping the soot and scales which always come from cleaning out stove pipes out of the way of the hens.

If any of the readers of the *Ploughman* have met with a similar loss we should be glad to know it.

It is possible the difficulty may arise from the creosote mixed in with the soot and iron rust in which case it would act like a poison, but whether it be the mechanical action of the scales causing violent inflammation, or the action of the creosote, the substance appears to be sure death and it had better be avoided, and kept out of the way of fowls at seasons of the year when they cannot get at gravel.

By the way, cayenne pepper is an excellent thing to mix in the food of hens at this season of the year. will be apt to make them lay.

— A writer says if a quart of strong mullein tea is given a horse affected with bots, it will never fail to affect a cure.

— The Chicago cattle yards have 150 acres floored with plank. There are pens for 75,000 cattle, 20,000 sheep, and 20,000 hogs.

— Southern farmers sow a portion of cotton seed with wheat. When the latter is up they top dress with the same, which is said to be a quick manure.

— Manure should never be placed in contact with the roots of a tree in setting it out, but old, finely pulverized earthy compost answers well.

— In England many farmers support large families on the produce of six English acres of land, besides paying heavy taxes. Many in Germany do even better than this.

— A correspondent of the *Western Rural* says that when he perceives his horses incline to rub their manes and tails, he feeds them a little oil meal, say from one to two quarts a day for a week or ten days, and at the same time makes a good brine, as warm as he can bear his hand in it, and washes the scaly substances out of the mane and tail, and rubs it in well about the roots of the mane and tail.

— Weeds are God's policemen. They make lazy farmers cultivate the soil, which without them never would be stirred, and consequently never produce a crop. A good farmer hoes often, weeds or no weeds, but a slack fellow never uses the hoe if he can find any excuse to avoid it.

— Great numbers of immigrants from Iowa are settling in Gentry County, Mo. They are pleased with the timber, water and soil, and consider the advantages superior o Iowa.

## Correspondence.

### TWITCH GRASS—COUCH GRASS—CHANDLER GRASS.

HOW IT MAY BE DESTROYED.

*Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:*

unwelcome grass besides those which have been named in your paper. The first consideration in all our agricultural improvements is "will it pay?" If it will not pay in the ordinary way in which it has been done, are there any other appliances whereby expenses may be saved sufficient to yield us a profit?

I have made a great many experiments, and have seen some by others, for destroying those plants, which we wish annihilated from our estates.

A neighbor of mine, some years ago, had a quarter of an acre entirely possessed by this grass. He ploughed it, and then employed hand labor, with hoes and hooks, to dig up and to carry off, as he supposed, all the roots of this grass, at an expense of some forty dollars. Then it was planted and hoed, and next year seeded down with the better kinds of grasses. But as it was hardly possible to remove all the small roots, in a very few years this same lot was again possessed by this same twitch grass. "*It did not pay.*"

I have seen another experiment upon this grass, by sowing buckwheat, with the application of guano or bone dust. The buckwheat did not drive the grass, but the grass drove the buckwheat.

Planting with corn two years in succession will do no service in destroying this grass. It will flourish and spread after your last hoeing, while your corn is too large to plough, and while you are too much engaged in your haying and harvesting your grain, to give it any attention.

*Vegetable Physiology* has taught us a most valuable lesson. It has taught us that the leaves perform the same functions in the plants that the lungs do in animals, though the absorption of the gases is reversed.—The lungs of the animal absorb the oxygen and reject the carbon, while the leaves of the plant absorb the carbonic acid gas, and reject the oxygen.

Hence those plants which are extensively made up of leaves obtain most of their support from the atmosphere, and will flourish upon a very poor and arid soil. Buckwheat, which is very bountifully endowed with leaves, by the application of a little guano, as the farmers say, "to give it a start," will produce abundantly upon a poor, sandy soil, for an indefinite number of years.

There is not an individual plant belonging to the vegetable kingdom, but what may be killed by a frequent and persistent denudation of its leaves. Knowing this fact it will assist us to accomplish our purpose in the cheapest way, if it will pay to do it at all. I have destroyed small patches of twitch grass in my corn field, by frequent cutting off the tender shoots with a sharp hoe, a little below the surface of the soil. I do not believe this plan "will pay,"—to be successful, it must be done twice a week through the season.

This grass, like most of our objectionable grasses, is largely made up of ligneous fibres, and contains but a comparatively small quantity of starchy, saccharine, nutritious matter. Our favorite varieties are just the reverse.—All these first named grasses have a woody stalk, and give off their foliage some distance from the ground, while the latter kind commence their leaves below the surface of the ground. This arrangement of the leaves prevents destruction by close grazing. Top dressing of pasture land will render the grass more tender and nutritious. The cattle will crop it closer, and more frequent cutting below the foliage of the woody grasses, thereby destroying them, and leaving a beautiful deep green carpeting of the richer kind.

Twitch grass will succumb to this profitable and beautiful process.

I have half an acre in a yard which has for sometime been only used for my fowls; the grass was not kept down—about one half of it, (the richest half) was in twitch grass.—Two years ago I put in two sheep; they have destroyed most of this grass, which is followed by white clover. I had also the remains of an old apple nursery, which I cut down some years ago; the sprouting from the stumps and roots were requiring much attention and labor to keep them down; the sheep by their fondness for bitter herbs, which they required for health, by their frequent nippings, killed them the first year. "*This paid.*"

In the destruction of plants, by robbing them of their foliage, there will be found a mighty difference in their vitality and power of reproduction. The old cone bearing plants, such as the pine and hemlock, after a single cutting below the leaves, will die.—They have no sprouting vitality remaining within the roots or stumps, whereas the walnut possesses this power to a very annoying degree. It sometimes takes two or three years of frequent denudation to extinguish its life.

A neighbor of mine had quite a large and thrifty apple tree. It produced bad fruit; he caused the small limbs to be engrafted; to hasten the growth of the grafts, he removed most of the leaf bearing limbs, and sprouts were kept down that the "grafts might receive the full sap of the tree." He did not understand the physiology of the tree. It died the next year for the want of breath.

I had, some years ago, a small patch of the hog brake in my pasture. I mowed them to the ground. Not long afterward, I discovered that the sprouts would outnumber those cut down. I did not feel disposed to yield my superiority to such hydra-headed productions. I drew my knife and proclaimed "war to the knife." Whenever I passed that way, the knife was most freely used. It was not till the second year, that these ferns yielded to decapitation. It was some eight or ten years ago. Nothing of the kind has been seen at that place since. Perhaps this paid in the gratification of the will. Most people are pleased when they conquer. Close grazing, for two consecutive seasons, is the most certain and sure method of destroying this unwelcome twitch grass.

SAMUEL HARTWELL.

*Southbridge, Jan.* 1869.

### WESTBORO' FARMERS' CLUB.

*Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:*

Having seen several notices of the doings of agricultural societies and clubs in your paper, I thought perhaps you might like to know of the doings of the society here in the staid town of Westboro'. We have a society here called the Agricultural Society of Westboro' and vicinity, *abic* years ago last November.

The Society held their annual meeting the first Monday of the present month for the choice of officers, and chose the following:

*President*—C. P. Rice.

*Vice Presidents*—Anson Warner and Lyman Belknap.

*Secretary and Treasurer*—S. Converse.

*Directors*—Edwin Bullard, C. P. Winslow, J. A. Fayerweather, E. D. White, Jr., and R. J. Forbush, all of Westboro'; Geo. E. Freeman, of Shrewsbury; S. E. Stowe, of Grafton; Wm. Adams, of Hopkinton, and Charles Potter of Northboro'.

Last Thursday evening the Society held its annual festival in the Town Hall, when it was estimated as many as six hundred members with their families come together to have a social time. The President called the multitude to order, and made a short opening speech in which he paid a tribute of respect to one of the founders of the Society, Hon. Geo. Denny. America was then sung by the congregation and the Divine blessing invoked. Refreshments were then served to all, as there was a bountiful supply gratuitously furnished by the members of the Society. When all had eaten their fill, they went in for a social time generally, interspersed with a few pithy remarks. Old Hundred being called for it was sung with a gusto by the crowd, when all went home feeling that they had had a good time.

*Westboro', Jan.* 23, 1869.

### ITALIAN BEES.

*Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:*

Owing to ill health and sickness in my family I have not been able to continue my perhaps useless correspondence, but hope soon to be able to do so. When I commenced this discussion, it was with the hope we might all be mutually benefitted, and that we might arrive at the true method in the care and culture of the honey bee, and for one I have no axe to grind in the matter. I notice in your last issue a communication from Norfolk County, in which the writer states that the Italian bee is much larger and stronger than the Black or Native bee. Now is this so? If it is so, then we in this vicinity have not the pure Italian bee, for they are smaller. Then again are they more productive? Will the swarms in the fall appear more full? Do they gather from flowers much, if any, that the native does not, with the exception of the short red clover? Then again are they more productive in honey? Why will not those having the Italian state the product from the same in honey?

I would like to call out those old veterans like Mr. Kidder, of Burlington, and others interested in not only the Italian, but the Black bee, as he was one of the first in introducing the Italian bee. His experience would be of value to us all. Let us all have a desire for the right in this matter. I will write more when able to attend to it. Let us decide this matter first.

Perhaps Mr. Pond's bees had become partly mixed with native.

By the way, Mr. Editor, we have a live agricultural club here in good running order. A few weeks ago we had an address from that able and interesting lecturer, Dr. Loring. It was one of his most instructive lectures. Mr. W. Holbrook is president; Mr. H. D. Johnson, secretary; Dea. Forbush, treasurer; and we have some able men that take a part in the discussions, and take a deep interest in the matter, such as Rev. Geo. S. Ball, Hon. W. S. Knowlton, Hon. V. Taft and others. I do think these clubs are of great value to the farmers in the towns. I will give you a short report occasionally if agreeable to you or your readers. Yours truly,

S. H. STOCKWELL.

*Upton, Jan.* 23d, 1869.

### CASTRATION OF RAMS.

The following article upon this important subject comes from the pen of a distinguished Veterinary Surgeon in extensive practice, and is a valuable contribution to the knowledge upon this process. We agree with him that the process described by our correspondent last week appears to be too cruel, and we trust he will try the method described below and let us know the result.—[Ed.

*Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:*

In reply to your correspondent you say there is considerable danger after the animal becomes aged. (I have not a copy at hand to quote the language used.) Doubtless there is more or less danger in all surgical operations, depending more upon the susceptibility of the animal in most cases than upon the manner in which the operation is performed. The after treatment has considerable to do with the success of castrating. Exposure to cold and wet would most likely produce unfavorable results. In many cases death has been produced by exposure to a cold rain. I would advise separating the rams from the ewes early in the season and castrate them early in June. In good weather let them take exercise, in fact, drive them about for that purpose. In wet weather keep them as comfortable as possible until the wound is healed. As to the mode of operating, adopt almost any one rather than the one recommended by a correspondent in last week's *Ploughman*, namely, by tying both cords with their coverings in one ligature, a cruel proceeding and one which *should never be practised*. See what Blaine says: "*Castration by ligature* is a painful, barbarous, and a very dangerous practice, and consists in enclosing the testicles and scrotum within ligatures until mortification occurs and they drop off. It is practiced by some breeders on their young colts, but it is always hazardous and disgracefully cruel."

A ligature of the cord alone must be excessively painful, yet nothing in comparison to the first named, and is quite simple in practice. First prepare a waxed thread or some saddler's silk, four or six doubled, then with a keen knife open the bottom of the scrotum sufficiently for the testicle to pass through. Grasp it with one hand and with the other press the divided scrotum upwards when the assistant can apply the string as high up as convenient, drawing it sufficiently tight to shut off the circulation of the blood, leaving a piece of the ligature below the wound. Do the same to the other, and little anguish can you need be felt, for the result if the

V. D.

### FEEDING AND TENDING STOCK.

*Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:*

I have been very much interested in reading the statements of Mr. Davenport and also of Mr. Adams, in regard to feeding stock in winter. My stock consists of two horses, two pairs of oxen, and eight cows, eleven heifers, and three bull calves, one of which is thoroughbred Shorthorn. My oxen are tied with chains, the cows and heifers with Sanford's patent stanchions, which I think is the best way of tying cattle. My floor is double planked, the top planks four feet, five inches in length. I usually go to the barn at five in the morning. The first thing is to milk. After milking I commence to feed with hay and straw mixed and keep my cattle eating one and a half hours. I then commence to water. The stables are then cleaned and littered, and the cattle are immediately tied up and fed with corn fodder. I then leave them till three o'clock in the afternoon. I then commence to feed the same as in morning, feed one and a half hours, then water. After watering I tie up and commence to milk. After milking I feed one-half peck of Swedes to a cow, and those in milk I feed two quarts of corn meal, and then I feed each one one bundle of corn fodder and leave them till morning. I cannot fully agree with Mr. Adams in regard to roots. I believe that Swedes are one of the most profitable crops that a farmer can raise to feed to his stock. I do not think it costs more than ten or twelve cents per bushel to raise them. I feed all of my stock a few roots every day. I think that my stock of cattle look as well now as when they came to the barn last fall. I think that roots are excellent things to feed to stock. They have a tendency to keep the bowels in good order. And as for milch cows I think there is not anything that I have ever fed that will produce so large a flow of milk as Swedes. I also feed salt and plaster to my cattle equally mixed every other day. Three years ago I broke up a piece of land containing one hundred rods and set it to apple trees. Spread on fifteen cart loads of manure and sowed it to Swedes, and harvested two hundred and fifty bushels. The next year I manured as before and sowed it to Swedes again, and harvested four hundred and fifty bushels, and last year I manured and sowed as before, and at the first of August they bid fair to exceed the other crops, but the caterpillars stepped in and injured them very much, but I harvested three hundred and seventy bushels, and I think if the cattle could speak they would thank me for the roots. My object in keeping cows is to produce milk for butter. The cows have averaged with my plan of feeding in butter alone $99 35 apiece. But I have said much more than I intended to, and I will leave the subject for others more capable than myself. I hope we shall hear from others.

Yours,

J. W. HAYES.

*Phillipston, Jan.* 25th, 1869.

### VARIETY OF FOOD FOR ANIMALS

Many suppose that this means to make a complete change every little while, but according to my experience such changes are altogether wrong in the sudden way some make them. Variety, according to my idea, is sufficient and best to be given with regularity and *daily* with cows and sheep; during feeding seasons, and when it is necessary and advisable to give a fresh kind of food, it is well to do it gradually. For instance, when cows go to grass, put them out at first when the dew has evaporated and get them in early in the evening and feed at night, for the first week, keeping them in their former quarters, and by the same rule accustom them by degrees to a dry diet for winter; but in the United States, as the hay generally consists of one or two coarse grasses, it is requisite to give bran or feed of some kind to keep the animal in tiptop condition, whereas hay made from the natural grasses, where the varieties almost exceed belief, will make beef without any auxiliary whatever.

Hay, meal and oilcake, given daily for months, is all the variety many of the fattest beasts have had. When a few good swedes are added, the variety is great; but to give oilcake for a week, and then for a change give none, would be very great folly in the fatting of any animal. When cattle are fed with any degree of judgment, and variety of the kind here alluded to is contrived, there will be no sickness, no unthriftiness, and perhaps no abortions among females, unless they eat hay made from grass when the seed sheds, in which case ergot and the seeds from many weeds which have time to mature may cause mischief of this kind. "Variety is charming," but sudden change is only a little better than no change at all,—unless the changes are all for the better, in which state of things change away.—*Country Gentleman.*

### INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The wonderful increase of agricultural machinery in the United States, during the last ten years, is shown from statistics furnished by the Patent Office.

In 1847, the number of agricultural patents granted was but forty-three; in 1863, it had increased to three hundred and ninety; in 1864, to five hundred and sixty-three; in 1865, to six hundred and forty-two; while in 1866, the increase has gone up to one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight.

During ten months of the past year, the Patent office issued no less than one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven. Notwithstanding this large increase in farm machinery and labor saving implements, it is a question whether we have improved in any marked ratio in the culture and management of farms. The application of recently improved machines enables the farmer to do his work quicker at less expense, and at a less waste of muscle. In all this there is a wonderful advance over ten years ago. But even though the progress of improved farming may not have been as rapid as could have been desired, yet there is more thought upon the subject now than then, and the day is not far distant when we shall see good farming the rule, rather than the exception.

— An English farmer broke up thirty acres of water meadow which produced nothing but coarse edge grasses and rushes. After it was thoroughly drained and laid down to grass, he was able to cut four crops of green fodder annually of the best quality. The same thing could be done in thousands of cases in this country.

### TRAINING THE GRAPE.

BY HON. E. W. BULL.

When you consider that the grape lives a thousand years, that it grows to a large size when let alone, that those old vines are always healthy, I think you will see immediately how much better it will be to give your grape extension, and to let it have that way its rampant proclivities for it so plainly by fine it within too narrow bounds, at the risk of gorging it with unripe sap and inducing disease. There is a vine in Richmond which was measured by two friends of mine, officers of the Thirty-Second Massachusetts Regiment, who came through that city after the surrender of Lee, and found to be forty-eight inches in circumference at the base, and sixteen inches in diameter. There is one vine in New Jersey with a diameter of two feet. Downing mentions one on an island in the Ohio River which had a diameter of two feet, and the branches of which covered more than an acre. These largest vines were estimated by Downing to be two thousand years old, and I do not know why they may not be. There is a bearing vine in New Jersey which gave, two years ago, seventy-eight bushels of fruit which went to market.

These facts which I instance, all go to prove that the grape ought to have a large extension; and if you plant your vineyard setting your vines eight feet apart, or eight feet by ten, and take crops from it for several years—for ten years, we will say—until the vines get too large for the space, cut out every alternate vine, (which have paid for themselves over and over,) instead of cutting back too closely in pruning. I have no doubt myself that the sap is injured by this engorgement. If you girdle a vine, a very common practice, you increase the size of the wood, and also the fruit beyond the part you have girdled, because you have intercepted the return of the sap; but that wood are more imperfect, and that fruit, I think, is never so good as that made from the thoroughly ripened sap of another vine, where all the processes have gone on naturally, and the return of the sap has not been impeded. I suppose engorgement has some such effect as this, that the crude, unripe sap distends the wood, and it is not so solid, ripe and sound as it otherwise would be, and becomes liable to that disease called canker among nurserymen. Blight, which is sometimes caused in the spring, has an aspect something like that. The young shoot, being pushed forward prematurely by the heats of spring, is blighted by the cold, easterly storms that sometimes follow. That has happened for two years past. In warm, sheltered locations the vine has put forth its shoots two weeks earlier than usual, and the cold easterly storms, with the thermometer very nearly at the freezing point, have blighted those shoots, and they have been discolored and taken on this very form which gardeners call canker. Such wood should never be used for propagation, because the disease is continued. The new growing wood will have the same predisposition to disease, and it will never be so good a vine, if, indeed, it does not go on from bad to worse.

Most of you have vines of your own which you can multiply, and it is better for a man to make his own vines than to buy them, if he can wait for them, because he can then select the proper wood to make vines from, and, when they are made, reject those which are weak. The wood should be sound, short jointed and well ripened. Some prefer the long jointed wood, of a rampant and coarse growing character. Well, gentlemen, if you were to go into my vineyard, where I do not use manure, you would find, out of twenty-five inches of wood, three, four or five inches, rarely more, of perfectly solid, well ripened wood, and well developed buds for bearing the next year. On the contrary, if you find a vine over fed, ill fed, heavily fed, long jointed, it will be found to have smaller buds, very many of them leaf buds, and very poorly developed fruit buds, which will give you meagre bunches next year. Let me state an instance to illustrate that. I knew a handsome orchard in Norfolk county belonging to a carpenter. He kept it in the finest condition; he was always feeding it and pruning it, and he had very handsome trees, but no fruit. After the old gentleman died his son left the place, and the orchard was neglected. At the end of two years he came home to find it heavily loaded with fruit.

You must have a proper balance, and then you have fruit and wood in proper quantities. Indeed, the law of pruning would lie in that. If you have excessive root power there will be too much wood. If you do not have room upon the trellis to lay in that wood, your only alternative is to crop heavily, in which case the strength of the vine goes to the crop, and the balance to wood. If, on the contrary, the root is small, the growth of the top will be less, and every experienced man will be able to see if it is weak, in which case he will prune back pretty closely. But if he has got too much wood, he will see that the root power is too great, and let it bear heavy crops of fruit, to restore the balance and the force of the vine going to mature the fruit, and he will find it manageable.

You see, therefore, that with a little wise neglect, and cheaper processes than we have thought to be needful, you will achieve the highest success. No matter how you train the grape, so long as you have spurs of good wood. So long as it continues to make wood satisfactory to you, no matter what may be the form, though the stem of the vine be contorted ever so much, though it have the most grotesque form, still you will have your crop. Training is more a matter of taste than necessity, except in so far as some forms are more convenient to prune and harvest the grape from than others. There is not the least necessity for training in set forms in regard to crop or quality.

Those ripe cuttings which you will take from the vine should have at least two buds; if very short jointed, three. Cut them off with a clean, close cut, just below the lower bud, from which point the roots are most copiously emitted, and leave the tip of the shoot one inch above the bud which is to make the vine, that it may project from the ground and be observed when hoeing. Plant the cuttings in mellow earth a few inches apart. Leave the top of the shoot just apparent upon the surface, and that will leave the bud a little less than an inch below the surface, from which place it grows with the greatest facility, giving you no more trouble, except to furnish a slight shade of branches or leaves or anything else, until it has got two or three leaves, in order that the young shoot may not be burned under the is needed, except to keep all further care. Then you will have vines of your own growing, of wood known to be healthy, from which you can select out the best and reject the weak altogether, and so establish a vineyard that shall be sure to have thoroughly healthy vines throughout its whole extent.

## Questions & Answers.

### PIGEONS.

### FANTAILS.

*Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:*

I would like to know through the *Ploughman* the proper treatment of Pigeons? I have attempted to breed them on a small scale for a few years past, merely from fancy, and meet with no luck at all. No sooner do I get a few pairs, than they drop their wings and lose their strength and die off. Their disease appears to be diarrhœa.

ISAAC BLANCHARD.

*E. Stoughton, Mass., Jan.* 25th, 1869.

The pigeons probably suffered not so much from diarrhœa as from a want of certain care and attention requisite for the well-being of these birds.

The following from Tegetmeier contains many suggestions of value for the guidance of pigeon fanciers: "It seldom occurs that a room is specially built for pigeons; but where there is any choice of locality, it is best to select one that is open to the south, so as to get a warm aspect in winter and early spring, as that tends to encourage early breeding, and is more healthy for the birds than a room exposed to the cold blasts from the north. It is not uncommon to see many pigeon rooms or lofts that are very deficient in light; this is particularly objectionable, a dark room is not as healthy for the birds, especially if they are not suffered to fly out; and it can hardly be as well cleaned as one which is well lighted.

Another point of the highest importance to the health of the birds is the establishment of a good system of ventilation, nine-tenths of the diseases that afflict our high-bred pigeons arising from their being crowded together in dark, dirty, ill ventilated lofts. There is no necessity for an absolute draught of wind to be allowed to rush through the loft, but full provision must be made for ventilation, if healthy birds are desired.

Cleanliness in the pigeon loft is no less essential than ventilation, particularly if many birds are kept and they are not flown. The loft should be cleared out daily. Under no circumstances should the dung be suffered to accumulate until it becomes offensive to the smell.

Fresh gravel, sand or dry earth should be thickly strewn on the floor every day, and the dung that accumulates in the nest boxes and around the nest pans not suffered to collect so as to be offensive. The most convenient instrument for clearing out the shelves will be found to be a small hoe fixed on a short handle about eight or ten inches in length.

Another appliance very necessary to the health and comfort of the birds must not be overlooked, that is the washing pan. Pigeons are not dusting birds, like fowls, but, on the contrary, cleanse themselves by washing; they are fond of lying down in shallow pools of water, expanding their wings, loosening the arrangement of the feathers, and then when the plumage is well nigh saturated, they give a vigorous shake, and the water at once becomes quite white and milky with the scurf thrown off from the skin of the birds.

A supply of drinking water is at all times an essential requisite. Pigeons are very thirsty birds, drinking a much greater amount of water than most persons would suppose possible; therefore a good supply is required. This is especially the case when the young are being fed, as, after picking up a cropful of corn or pulse, the old bird has to take a copious draught of water before it can disgorge it into the throat of the young.

It is essential that a supply of mortar, rubbish and salt be kept constantly by the birds. So fond are pigeons of salt they will peck at any substance containing it. On one occasion the brine out of a barrel of Scotch herrings was emptied in our garden, and for many months the pigeons were to be noticed pecking out the mould, evidently attracted by the saline constituents of the brine."—[Ed.

### WHEAT IN ENGLAND.

The Agricultural Gazette estimates the annual consumption of wheat in the United Kingdom as 20,000,000 of quarters, it may be a million more, and states the average yield per acre, throughout the kingdom, at 27 bushels. An English quarter is eight bushels.

### WOOD ASHES.

Every bushel of wood ashes applied to the corn crop, is worth one dollar. The truth of this assertion has been repeatedly demonstrated by the result of experiments accurately conducted. On all light soils the action of ashes is highly energetic and salutary; they exert a warming and invigorating influence, and promote the rapid growth of almost every species of production.

— W. C. Flagg, says that Hale's Early Peach was decidedly in advance of any other variety in its period of ripening last year, in the vicinity of Alton, Illinois. He began packing and shipping it five days in advance of the Early Tillotson; six before Troth's Early, and fourteen before Large Early York. It is a highly colored, beautiful peach, of good quality, of great hardiness and productiveness.

## MAINE STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

### ANNUAL MEETING AT AUGUSTA

Reported for the Ploughman,

The annual meeting of the Maine State Board of Agriculture began on the 20th of last month, and extended through several days.

The following is the list of officers elected for 1869.

*President*—Samuel Wasson, of Ellsworth.

*Secretary*—S. L. Goodale, of Saco.

*Messenger*—A. R. Boardman, of South Norridgewock.

The afternoon session of Wednesday was occupied by Mr. Wasson's Report on "Shelter vs. Waste," and Mr. L. Chamberlain's Report on "Degeneration of Animals through the use of young and undeveloped parents."

The following resolve, which was accepted, was introduced by Mr. Norton.

*Whereas*, The hay crop is one of the most important crops to the farmers of Maine, therefore,

*Resolved*, That we recommend the clearing and draining of our meadow lands where the elements of nutrition from our cultivated fields are annually washed down into some neglected bog, which by draining and cultivation may be made the most productive and valuable part of the farm. Assigned for discussion.

THURSDAY FORENOON.

Mr. HOLMES presented a Report on "The Vegetable Garden." Assigned for discussion.

A Discussion was held on the Report relative to the reclaiming and improvement of bogs and meadow lands.

Mr. NORTON gave his experience in draining a hog or meadow of some four acres in extent, which by being improved in this manner, had been changed from the least valuable to one of the best portions of the farm.

Mr. SCAMMAN thought the subject most important, and after premising that farming in Maine cannot be carried on without manure, touched briefly upon the preparation of fertilizers, and by draining the grass lands of Maine, may be made more valuable. The discussion on this subject was continued through the forenoon, and was exceedingly interesting and instructive.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

In the afternoon session MR. HOBBS, of Knox, presented a Report on "The Saving and Application of Manures." This Report received a first and second readings.

MR. GILBERT in his remarks upon this subject, alluded to the wastefulness which characterises the farming operations of our farmers.

The following is a Report of this discussion, as given in the *Maine Farmer*:

"Wastefulness is the rule rather than the exception in the matter, and our lean pastures and barren fields attest the wastefulness of farmers in this matter. If the farmer *saves* every particle of manure made, he need make no use of commercial fertilizers; he will have enough. A barn cellar was of the greatest importance in saving manure, and those about to build a barn or to improve those they now have, should make provision for a cellar. It had been his practice for the past ten years to stable his cattle at night in summer as well as in winter, and by having the barns well supplied with dried loam or muck, he thinks but very little is lost. A stock of cattle is, however, not the only source for obtaining a supply of manure.—Swine will manufacture a great deal of valuable manure, if farmers will give their pens proper attention, and supply them with materials to be converted into manure. Sheep and hens both furnish a source of making manure that should not be overlooked, but is by far too much neglected among farmers. The privy was also alluded to, as the fertilizer it furnished was powerful and active. The muck bed was a great auxiliary to the manure heap, and as an absorbent he regarded muck as better than loam, because it was lighter to handle than loam. Some farmers in his county are now hauling muck two miles, and consider themselves well paid for doing so.

MR. THING thought the hog pen could be made a more profitable source of manure than any other agency upon the farm, provided the contents of the barn stable and privy, together with house and sink slops, with a sufficient quantity of dried muck, were all worked over together. As a dressing for corn, such manure had always been satisfactory to him, and had produced good results. The secret of making manure was to keep constantly at it, doing a little every day, putting in a wheelbarrow load of loam or muck as opportunity occurred, and not waiting to do a great deal at a time.

MR. GOODALE said there was a great difference in the value of liquid and solid manures, in accordance with the food used. If stock is fed on clover, the liquid voiding is best; if on herdsgrass, the solid is more valuable. Hence, both liquid and solid excrements should be used, and an absorbent made free use of. There was a great difference in the value of muck, some being of little or no value. Clay will also absorb more, especially of ammonia, than loamy or sandy soils, or road dust. Loam is a good absorbent. He spoke of the husbandry of China, and their great economy of night soil; and while he would not recommend our farmers to copy too many of their practices, he would have them practice their economy in saving night soil. A common sized family would no doubt produce enough to dress an acre sufficiently. A heap of muck for the sink spout, renewed as often as necessary, was a good means of saving fertilizing matter. The nearer the surface the manure was applied, the better. It has been found in practice that there is comparatively but little loss arising from the evaporation of manure applied to the surface. Ammonial manures give very little benefit to clover, beans or peas, but they are of great value to wheat and the grains. He thought it was better to let manures undergo

this country, and he thought feeding more than breeding made good animals. Feeding in all its points was considered a fine art, and the lecture throughout was enlivened by a fund of geniality and wit of which the audience did not tire.

After Dr. Loring's lecture a discussion upon points in the same were engaged in by ex-Gov. Brown of Massachusetts, Dr. Henry Boynton of Vermont, and Gen. Asa Head, President of the New Hampshire Agricultural Society. The meeting has been one of the best held during the Convention.


# The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, FEB. 6, 1869.


## ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
## N. E. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Never in the history of the Society has there been so good and substantial evidence of the strength and vigor of the New England Society, as was manifested in the annual meeting, at Chickering's Hall, in this city, on Tuesday last. The meeting was called at eleven o'clock in the forenoon; but as early as half past ten a large number of persons were scattered in little groups about the hall, discussing matters of deep and general interest to the Society. With the exceptions of Maine and Vermont, the New England States were well represented. The delegations from New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut, were made up of the solid men of those States; men who were early friends of the Society and have never failed to take a hearty interest in all its affairs. Nor did Massachusetts fail to be represented. From Cape Cod and from the hills of Berkshire, as well as from the heart of the Commonwealth, men whose names are familiar to all the people and whose presence gives dignity and character to any gathering, were present to take part in the discussions and deliberations of this annual meeting.

At eleven o'clock, precisely, Dr. Loring called the meeting to order and commenced the delivery of his annual address. The address was listened to with marked attention and elicited great applause. It was an able and comprehensive production and will take high rank in the agricultural literature of the country. Full of suggestions and hints deeply needed by the practical farmer; abounding in views based upon experience and a most careful observation; replete with gleanings from varied and extensive reading; the address was a production which could only have been prepared by a thoroughly practical man, a sound, careful thinker and a ripe scholar. The daily papers furnished it in full to their hundred thousand city readers the next morning; and we give it in full to the readers of the *Ploughman* in our edition to-day, and bespeak for it not only a careful reading but a close and thoughtful study.

The annual meeting was enlivened by some brisk and sharp discussions in which Mr. Lyman of New Hampshire, Mr. Perry of Rhode Island, Gov. Hyde of Connecticut, and Messrs. Hyde, Goodman, Davis, Phinney, Usher, Needham, Loring and other gentlemen of Massachusetts took part. But throughout the discussions, in all that was said and in all that was done, there was manifested the kindest spirit and most lively interest for the future success and growth of the Society.

The new charter, granted by the State of Massachusetts to George B. Loring, Daniel Needham and S. H. Howe, was accepted, and a new Society was organized under it, with a constitution similar to that of the old Society, and with the same standard bearers that have carried the banner of the old Society from triumph to triumph under the old organization.

A new era now opens for the New England Society; with a special charter granted by the Legislature of Massachusetts; with a new constitution and by-laws; and with the old officers still leading the column, and the old members all engrafted into the new corporation, we may look for a future health and vigor, which shall in no wise cast discredit upon the old Society. The old organization is numbered among the things of the past. The new Society with greater rights and privileges, and a larger field of usefulness, takes its place. Nothing could have been added to make more favorable the circumstances under which the new Society had its origin. The day, itself, was one of the most beautiful of all beautiful winter days; the gathering was of the men best known in the agricultural world, and in whom the people have unlimited confidence; the good feeling and the general harmony everywhere manifested among the members, was an omen of a most promising character; and all in all, the annual meeting of Tuesday last, was the largest, the most spirited and the best, which the New England Society has ever held.

We call attention to the complete report of the meeting in our paper to-day. A glance at the Constitution will show that life memberships will hereafter be five dollars, and that provision is made for annual memberships of two dollars each. We believe that the change will meet with universal approval. The life membership of the old Society of three dollars failed to give the Society any accumulation of funds; and the fee established in the new Constitution may prove to be inadequate to the necessities of the Society. If it does, after the experience of one or two years, the Constitution may be amended and a larger sum fixed as the price of life membership tickets.

To those of our friends who were not present on Tuesday, we can say, they lost a rare opportunity of attending a meeting held in the interests not only of agriculture, but the general advancement of civilization; those who were present, we can congratulate upon the universal good feeling manifested, and the candid and able manner in which questions appertaining to the interest of the Society were discussed.

## A PICTURE ON THE WALL.

Try only one, and note its silent effect on the feelings and sentiments. Let it be as excellent as can be purchased, representing some worthy subject to which the one selecting it is attracted, and then give it daily attention, thought, meditation. It will be a study for the better qualities of the nature, to give them gradual development and refining discipline. It will draw out the more elevated impulses. It will challenge the larger and deeper sympathies. There is magic in a good picture, it draws so subtly on the character. No man can deliberately entertain low or mean thoughts in the presence and under the direct influence of a fine and able picture. Have *one* on the walls at least.

RETIREMENT OF AN EDITOR. S. B Phinney, Esq., editor and proprietor of the *Barnstable Patriot*, established by him forty years ago, has retired from the position which he has filled so successfully and honorably to himself, with the general good wishes of the press, and resigns the management to Messrs. Richards & Goss, who have long been connected with the *Patriot*.

— The new Treasury building at Washington covers several Squares, and is six hundred feet long by five hundred broad, five stories high, and constructed of Quincy granite.

— Fifty or sixty millions of revenue are counted on from spirits, for the current fiscal year.

— Coal is now ten dollars per ton in the city, delivered.

— An inauguration hat is being made in New York for Gen. Grant.

— Violets are in full bloom in South Carolina.

☞ There are no paupers in the town of Woodstock, N. H.

## ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
## NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.
## ORGANIZATION UNDER THE CHARTER.
### OFFICIAL REPORT.

The Annual Meeting of the New England Agricultural Society was held at Chickering's Hall, Boston, on Tuesday last, at eleven o'clock. About one hundred and fifty gentlemen were present, among whom were many of the leading agriculturists of New England. The call specified, as the business to come before the meeting, the election of officers, and the consideration of the question of the acceptance of the charter granted by the Legislature of last year.

The President, Dr. GEO. B. LORING, called the Society to order at the hour above named, and addressed the assembly as follows:

### Address of President Loring.

*Gentlemen*: The increasing agricultural wealth of New England renders the annual meeting of this society a matter of interest and congratulation for the coming year—not for those only who gather each returning year for the purposes of organization, in a legislative sense, but the aggregate annual meeting of the States which we represent is steadily advancing to a higher degree of profit and prosperity, and has in fact that solid foundation of tenacious and intelligent class, in whose hands the business of farming rests, whose ingenious labor is applied to our soil, who hold it their highest and fat the largest portion of the wealth, and whose numbers constitute the largest portion of the population of the States. Any one can gain satisfactory report of the trial of ploughs in Utica, N. Y., in 1867, by the New York State Society, says: "It is shown in the history of the plough, which we have attempted to sketch, that the efforts of all the inventors who have applied their skill to the improvement of the mould board, have been directed to the formation of a perfectly curved or twisted wedge, which should be entirely regular in its formation, that is, that the third line should depart from the plane of the second precisely as far as the second does from the plane of the first, and that the fourth should depart from the plane of the third precisely as much as the third does from the second, and so on. This is especially true of the ploughs which are avowedly formed on mathematical principles, as Jefferson's, Stephens', Rhan's and KNOX's. Indeed their object in forming the old or family of theoretical principles was to insure this perfect regularity in the twist of the mould board. . . . We grant that when economy of power is the sole object, the twist must be regular and gentle; but where the primary object is to mellow the soil, then irregularity in the lines becomes indispensable." Now it is a curious fact that this difference of opinion with regard to the form of the mould board, has existed with regard to many other parts of the plough—the land side, the coulter, and the share—as well as with regard to the relative position of the parts to each other. The variations in the length to the land side of the plough exhibited at Amherst were very great; some of them appearing to have been constructed for the purpose of holding the plough firmly in the furrow, and some of them with a view to dispense with a land side altogether, if possible. Great differences exist also with regard to the construction of the share—especially in the distance of the point from a vertical line, dropped from the beam bolt to the land side. It will readily be seen that upon the length of this line will depend the shape of the curve from the beam bolt to the point —and also the shape of the front of the mould board; and it hardly seems possible that a share with a short blunt share, and a very obtuse angle between the land side and the mould board, should do the same work as a plough with a long protruding point, with an acute angle, and a capacity to force the share far under the soil, thus lifting it before it is curved and broken by the mould board. The length of the share, the length and depth of the land side, and the proportions established between the land side and the mould board must be points as important to the mechanic, as the mathematical rules upon which the mould board is to be constructed. And while I do not expect to see a plough which will work equally well in all kinds of land, and in deep ploughing as well as shallow, I do hope to see some general principle applied to the structure of the plough, which will make it an implement more uniform in its work, and less dependent upon the skill of the ploughman for the degree of perfection with which it turns the soil. I hope to be able, ere long, to present the precise differences, in measurement, to which I have alluded, with the desire that they may be suggestive to our ingenious mechanics.

The trial of ploughs at Amherst demonstrated the importance of similar trials for all communities whose value can only be tested by actual service. The action of the Essex Agricultural Society has resulted in the offer of $100 for the best plough for general purposes, and $50 each for the next two best, adapted to the stony hills of Essex. And I would advise you to follow this example. It is not possible to obtain a set of ploughs adapted to all soils, except under the trial system

## READ AND RUN.

— Velocipeding is becoming a mania just as fast as people can learn to ride.

— In 1866, an individual started a paper on a cash basis of fifteen cents, and it is now self-supporting. But that shouldn't entice everbody into the business.

— Chicago talks of an Interoceanic Hotel Company, with a capital of ten millions.

— It is proposed in the Kentucky Legislature to erect a monument to the memory of Zachary Taylor.

— Fifteen million yards of sacking is what California uses in a year, to put her grain in for shipment.

— A new plan is to be tried in Brooklyn for clearing the streets of heavy falls of snow, by turning steam upon the snow and letting it run off in the sewers.

— A man has been paid by the Government for the last fifty years, to watch for a few hours every day the crypt under the Capitol in which it was expected that Gen. Washington's body would be laid.

— Persons in Rochester have been trying to secure the insurance on an individual whom they reported as dead.

— How to make—learn to save.

— A Miss Cole of Cincinnati died a short time since from the bite of a mad dog.

— All the theatres in Havana have been closed since the recent disturbances.

— The biggest sea shipped by the ocean steamer Pereire is estimated to have been of one thousand ton power.

— Curtis says with point, that the feudalism of English literature died with Scott.

— The Rogers murder in New York is just as much involved in mystery as ever.

— More earth shaking has been felt in San Francisco.

— The latest reports say that Gen. Cushing is likely to be successful in his mission concerning the Darien Ship Canal.

— The city, and they have all just donned a new uniform, according to the rule.

— Arms and ammunition go out secretly from the United States to Cuba, in aid of the revolutionists.

— Russia is troubling England exceedingly, by her doings in Central Asia.

— Conventions of all sorts are the order of the day.

— Bismark is going up to St. Petersburg, on a diplomatic errand of course.

— Washington is now as gay as it will be at any time this winter.

— The Irish Societies of New York are to hold a monster convention on St. Patrick's Day.

— The difference of time between New York and San Francisco is three hours and seventeen minutes.

— The finances of France are represented to be steadily growing stronger.

— The Mayor of Philadelphia is said to make a practice of presenting his photograph and a copy of the New Testament to all the couples he marries.

— Since the days of Jefferson, this nation has always been a purchaser of real estate.

— They are about taking legal steps in Nevada to protect the persecuted Chinese.

— Michigan University has 1114 students.

— Somebody proposes to have candidates for the revenue service examined by the phrenologists, to see if their honesty shows in their bumps.

— The Blaisdell and Eckell who figured in the Burdell murder trial in New York, have gone to State Prison for three years each, for cheating the Government in whiskey.

— Gen. Grant, with a dry humor, remarks that he has never felt lonesome since he was elected President.

— The Great Peace Jubilee is being taken hold of in earnest by the business men of Boston, and will prove a grand success.

— The subject of the deadly foul air in theatres and public halls is receiving attention from the New York journals.

— The business of the Pacific road last year amounted to more than five millions of dollars.

— Mr. Boutwell's Suffrage Amendment has passed the house of Representatives.

— Mrs. Gen. Grant wants to keep her own house in Washington during the official term of her husband, using the White House only for receptions.

— The Hotel Pelham, which the City had engaged to move back in widening Tremont street, came near being burned last week, and so saving the city the trouble.

— Train performs a dance on some of the platforms on which he speaks.

— There is an old cobbler in Boston who has whistled nothing but Yankee Doodle through the streets for years, enticed from his early affection by none of the modern tunes.

— Gen. Comstock, of Gen. Grant's staff, was married on Wednesday to Miss Betty, daughter of Montgomery Blair.

— The marriage tax is to be advanced from fifty cents to one dollar. One hundred per cent. advance is large.

— The proposal is made to stop gambling by passing a law requiring every house in which it is practised to have the word Gambling put up over the door, with the name of the occupant beneath it.

— The Sorosis Society in New York have formerly resolved to bid defiance to Mrs. Grundy, and to shut the door in her face.

— The eclipse of the moon, last week, was a complete success according to the programme.

— The Provisional Government of Spain has issued an address to the people, openly declaring for the monarchy principle for that country.

— The Suez Canal will be open for the navigation of the ships of all nations by October 1st.

— Massachusetts is really going to try a pugilist in its Courts.

— The recent assassination of the Governor of Burgos, in Spain, has caused deep popular excitement against the church party.

— Austria is proceeding with her internal reforms at a steady pace.

— The Mt. Cenis tunnel, through the Alps, is seven and a half miles long, and will be completed by November of next year.

— Mexico is represented to be in a very wretched and unsatisfactory state.

— The Orangemen in Ireland are about co-operating with the Catholics on the subject so near to both—that of land tenure.

— A vigilance committee has been seriously talked of in New York.

— The thermometer hereabouts has not been down to zero indication during the winter.

— Illinois is taking measures to protect its game from the devastation that threatens it.

— Such a winter is not remembered by the very oldest inhabitant,

— Robbing banks and safes in stores is almost a regular occupation.

— Spain has without doubt lost her hold on the Cuban mind.

Not a syllable could be got out of Bismark during the session of the Paris Conference.

— Mr. Alcott's last "conversation" in Paris was on the Religion of Health and Temperance.

— Our exports last year were very nearly equal to our imports; this year they are expected to exceed them.

— The British Treaties will hardly find favor with the Senate.

— Secretary Browning, of the Interior Department, gave a reception recently to all the clerks of the Department, with their families.

— Geese are flying over at South Framingham, and the blue birds are tuneful.

— The convicts at Charlestown enjoyed a bounteous dinner last Sunday, provided at the expense of an unknown philanthropist.

## MONEY AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS.

The past month has been a gradually improving one in money matters, and the demand for money is now quite active, with a supply fully adequate for all legitimate purposes of trade or speculation, on favorable terms for the borrower. The banks are discounting at 7 per cent, on prominscories, and in many cases a margin is left for outside paper, which is passed at 8 to 10 per cent., and in many cases a still higher rate is freely paid. Call loans are in limited demand at 6 per cent.

The gold market has remained quiet, with moderate fluctuations, the changes of the month being slight, with a fair amount of sales.

Government securities remain strong, and the movements of the month have been to a fair extent.

The transactions at the Stock Exchange, during the month have shown a gradual increase, with an improvement in some varieties, and there has, in some cases, been a slight speculative action, but no special movement. The sound dividend paying classes are well sustained, and sellers wanted for investment at full prices. More activity may however be expected as the season advances, as money continues easy, with the prospect of a still greater supply.

Business promises well. There is a fair demand for the leading staples, but without any special demand except in some few cases. In the boot and shoe trade there has been quite a lively movement. In domestic cotton goods there is something doing, although the trade has not been active. There is a confident feeling that as the season advances, a general improvement and activity will take the place of this long continued season of dullness and stupor. The South and West are becoming highly prosperous, and the manufacturing and industrial interests of the Middle States are fully and generally profitably employed. It is to be hoped that nothing will be done by Congress further to unsettle business, for what is wanted is some settled policy. The past year was one of good success in the cotton trade, and the present season promises still better results.

## GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

THURSDAY Feb. 4.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6s of 1881, 6 | per cent. int. | payable | Jan. and July, | 112½ |
| 5-20s 1862, | do | do | May and Nov. | 113½ |
| 5-20s 1864, | do | do | do | 109¾ |
| 5-20s 1865, | do | do | do | 110 |
| New 1865, | do | do | Jan. and July, | 108¾ |
| do 1867, | do | do | do | 108¾ |
| do 1868, | do | do | do | 108 |
| 10-40 | do | do | March and Sept. | 108½ |

*To the Editor of the Massachusetts Ploughman:*

EXTREMELY FRIENDLY:—I have discovered a positive cure for Consumption and General Debility for all orders of the Lungs and Throat. It completely cured me and hundreds of acquaintances. I will give $1000 for a case it will not relieve; indeed so great is my faith, I will send a sample FREE to any fellow sufferer who will address Yours Faithfully, JAMES WYATT, S. E. Corner Broadway and Fulton Street, New York.

nov28-13t*

## WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

**For the week ending Friday, Feb. 5.**

*Reported expressly for the Ploughman.*

**ASHES.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Pots, ₩ ₺ | $18 @ |
| Pearl | 9½ @ 10½ |

**BEESWAX.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Yellow | 41 @ 42 |

**CANDLES.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Mould | 16 @ 17 |
| Sperm | 40 @ 42 |
| Adamantine | 22 @ 35 |
| Paraffine | 33 @ 35 |

**CASK.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Cannel ton | 19 00 @ 21 00 |
| Sibley | @ |
| Pictou | @ |
| Cumberland | 9 00@ 9 25 |
| Anthracite, ₩ 2000 ℔ | |
| | @10 00 |
| Cargo | 9 00@ 9 50 |

**COFFEE.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Java ₩ ₺ | 32 @ 33 |
| Mocha | @ |
| St Domingo | 19 @ 21 |
| Rio | 19 @ 22 |

**COTTON.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ordinary | 25 @ 27 |
| Good ordinary | 27 @ 28 |
| Low Middling | 28½ @ 29 |
| Middling | 29½ @ 30½ |
| Good Middling | 31 @ 32 |

**DYE STUFFS.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sheetings and Shirtings. | |
| Heavy 4-4 | 16½ @ 17 |
| Medium 4-4 | 15½ @ 16 |
| Drillings, brown | 17 @ 18 |
| Print Cloths | 9½ @ 9¾ |
| Cotton Flannels | 30 @ 32 |
| Cotton Jeans | 12½ @ 17½ |
| Ticks | 12½ @ 14 |
| Shirting | 12½ @ 17½ |
| Ticking | 28 @ 35 |
| Cottonades | 25 @ 30 |
| Denims | 18 @ 33 |
| Ginghams | 15 @ 17 |
| Mous. Delaines | 20 @ 22 |

**FISH.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Cod, large, qtl. | 7 50@ 8 25 |
| Medium, Fam. | 6 50@ 7 00 |
| Small | 5 50@ 6 00 |
| Hake | 2 25@ 2 50 |
| Haddock | 2 50@ |
| Pollock | 2 75@ 3 00 |
| Mackerel, Shore | |
| No. 1, brl. | 27 00@27 50 |
| No. 2 | @ |
| No. 3 | 15 00@16 00 |
| Mackerel, shore | |
| No. 1 | @23 50 |
| No. 2 | @ |
| No. 3 | @ |
| Alewives | 5 00@ 6 50 |
| Salmon | |
| No. 1, brl | 30 00@ 32 00 |
| No. 2, tce | 30 00@33 00 |
| Herring | |
| Sealed box | @ 40 |
| Pickled, brl | 4 75@ 5 00 |

**FLOUR & MEAL.**

| | |
|---|---|
| St Louis sup | @ |
| Ex brands | 8 50@ 9 50 |
| Choice ex | 12 50@13 50 |
| Western sup | 5 25@ 7 50 |
| Com. extras | 6 00@ 7 75 |
| Medium do | 7 00@ 8 00 |
| Choice do | 8 00@ 9 00 |
| Southern, sup | |
| Extras | 8 00@ 9 00 |
| Choice do | 9 00@12 50 |
| Brandy's | 9 50@12 00 |
| Rye Flour | 7 50@ 8 00 |
| Corn Meal | 4 25@ 4 50 |

**GRAIN.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Corn ₩ 56 ℔ | |
| South'n, yel | 1 01@ 1 02 |
| West'n mix'd | 1 00@ 1 01 |
| do yellow | 1 00@ 1 01 |
| Wheat, South'n | 1 50@ 2 25 |
| Rye | 1 00@ 1 05 |
| Barley | 1 00@ 1 60 |
| Oats, South'n | 75@ 80 |
| Shorts ₩ ton | 30 00@32 00 |
| Fine Feed | 34 00@36 00 |
| Middling | 36 00@38 00 |

**GUNNY BAGS.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Bags, ₩ ℔ | 12 @ 13 |

**GUNNY CLOTH.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Cloth, ₩ yard | 21 @ 24 |

**HAY.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Calcutta Cow ₩ ℔ | |
| Slaughter | 23 @ 24 |
| Dead Green | 20 @ 21 |
| Buffalo | 19 @ 19½ |
| Bu Ayers, dry | 30 @ 32 |
| Rio Grande | 30 @ 32 |
| California | 29 @ 30 |
| Bu Ayers, wet | 17½ @ 18 |
| Western dry | 22 @ 24 |
| Do wet | 12½ @ 14½ |
| Africa | 17 @ 40 |
| Goat: skins | |
| Mad as | 60 @ 70 |
| Patna | 37½ @ 42½ |
| Caps Good Hope | 48 @ 50 |
| Cuba, ₩ gallon | 1 00@1 10 |

**HOPS.**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st sort, 1868 | 10 @ 15 |

**INDIA RUBBER**

| | |
|---|---|
| Per ₺ | 85 @ 90 |

**LIME.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Rockland, cask | @ 1 70 |
| Mussiquoni | @ 2 00 |

**LUMBER.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Clear Pine | |
| No. 1 | 75 00@80 00 |
| No. 2 | 65 00@70 00 |
| No. 3 | 55 00@60 00 |
| No. 4 | 35 00@42 00 |
| No. 5 | 30 00@32 00 |
| Coarse Pine | |
| No. 2 | 30 00@32 00 |
| Refuse | 14 00@16 00 |
| Shipping Bds | 20 00@21 00 |
| Spruce | |
| No. 1 & 2 | 16 00@17 50 |
| Refuse | 10 00@12 00 |
| Hemlock Boards | 12 00@13 00 |
| No. 1 & 2 | 13 00@14 00 |
| Refuse | 10 00@11 00 |
| Southern Pine | |
| Rosewood, | |
| cut to order | 36 00@38 00 |
| Ass. cargoes | |
| W. I. stuff | 38 00@25 00 |
| S. A. Deals | 22 00@25 00 |
| Hewn timb'r | 25 00@30 00 |
| Flooring Boards | |
| No. 1 & " | @26 00 |
| " | @ |
| Refuse | 17 00@22 00 |
| Clapboards | |
| Extra pine | 55 00@60 00 |
| Do clear | 45 00@50 00 |
| Do No. 1 | 35 00@38 00 |
| Spr extra | 45 00@55 00 |
| Spr clear | 40 00@45 00 |
| No. 1 | 30 00@35 00 |
| Spruce | 15 00@30 00 |
| Shingles | 2 25@ 7 50 |
| Laths | 2 25@ 2 50 |
| Box Sh's | 70 00@75 00 |

**MOLASSES.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Cuba, clayed | 40@ 42 |
| Do. muscov | 42@ 48 |
| Cienfuegos | 42@ 45 |
| Clenfuegos | 45@ 50 |
| Barbadoes | 50@ 57 |
| Porto Rico | 55@ 65 |
| Remedios | 44@ 48 |

**NAILS.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Cut | 5 |

**NAVAL STORES.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Rosin, com | 2 75@ 2 87 |
| No. 2 | 2 87@ 3 00 |
| No. 1 | 4 00@ 4 50 |
| Extra No. 1 | 4 50@ 4 75 |
| Do. Pale | 6 00@ 7 00 |
| Turpentine | 4 00@ 4 25 |
| Spirits | 39 @ 40 |
| Pitch, Pine | 3 62 @ 3 75 |
| Tar, White | 4 25@ 4 50 |
| Do. N. Co'y | 4 00@ 4 25 |
| Oakum | @ |

**OILS.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Paraffine | 1 25@ 1 50 |
| Do. Bright | 30@ 50 |
| Sperm | @ |
| Black Varnish | |
| Ship Bds | 35@ 75 |
| Whale, ref | 65@ 67½ |
| Navy Pitch | 3 00@ 3 25 |
| Tarred Paper | 3@ 3½ |

**OIL.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Olive, ₩ gal | 2 00@ 2 25 |
| Linseed | |
| English | @ |
| American | 95 @ 1 05 |
| Palm, ₩ ℔ | 12 @ 13 |
| Crude Sp'm | 2 @ 2 05 |
| Do. Whale | 1 20@ 1 25 |
| Refined do | 1 30@ 1 35 |
| Sp'm, winter | 2 10@ 2 15 |
| Do. Spring | 2 05@ 2 10 |
| Do. Fall | 2 00@ 2 05 |
| Lard, Western | |
| Extra | 1 75@ 1 80 |
| No. 1 | 1 50@ 1 60 |
| Boston ex | 1 80@ 1 90 |
| Adam's Boston | 1 60@ 1 70 |
| Lubricating | 30@ 1 50 |
| Richmond | @ |
| Perry's Lin | @ |
| bricator | 30@ 1 50 |
| Strats, gal | 95@ 1 00 |
| Whale | 60@ 65 |
| Shore | 90@ 95 |
| Neatsfoot, ₩ gallon | 1 10@ 1 80 |
| Red | 85@ 1 00 |

**OIL CAKE.**

| | |
|---|---|
| City Thin Oblong, in bbls | |
| Do. in bags | 53 00@54 00 |
| City Thin Oblong in bags | 53 00@54 00 |
| Western Thin Oblong | 50@55 00 |

**PAINTS.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Chrome, yel bs | @ |
| Chrome green | @ |
| Blue cask | @ |
| Paris green | @ |
| Brunswick do | @ |
| Litharge | @ |
| Lead, red, Am | 11 @ 12 |
| Wh. Am. dry | |
| pure | @ 12 |
| Grand, pure | 13 @ 14 |
| No. 1 | @ 16 |
| Zinc, wh'e, dry | 10 @ 14 |
| No. 1 in oil | 13½@ 14½ |
| Paris W. Eag. | 3 00@ 3 25 |
| American | @ |
| Prus. blue | @ |
| Ultra'ne, ₩ ℔ | 1@ 2 |
| Ven Red, cwt. | 3 50@ 3 75 |
| Vermillion, B. | 28@ 1 50 |
| American | @ |

**PETROLEUM.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Crude | 24@ 27 |
| Refin'd Wests | 38@ 40 |
| Do. Boston | 40@ 42 |
| Kerosene | 42@ 45 |
| Naphta | 12@ 26 |

**RICE.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Per ₺ | 8@ 10 |

**SALTPETRE.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Trapaul | 2 75@ 3 00 |
| Cadiz | 3 75@ 3 85 |
| Turks Island | 3 80@ 3 87 |
| Liverpool | 3 62@ 3 75 |
| Bag fine | 2 50@ 2 75 |
| Coarse | 62@ 1 75 |

**SALTPETRE.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Crude ₩ ℔ | 10@ 11 |
| Refined | 12@ 13 |

**SOAP.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Castile ₩ ℔ | 16@ 16 |

**SPICES.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Cassia in mats | |
| gold | 50@ 80 |
| Do. in cases | |
| gold | @ |
| Cloves | 29@ 30 |
| Ginger | 12@ 13½ |
| Mace | 95@ 97½ |
| Nutmegs | 90@ 95 |
| Pepper | 23½@ 24 |
| Pimento | 21@ 21½ |

**SUGAR.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Havana D. S. | |
| Nos. 8 to 9 | 10@ 11 |
| Nos. 10 to 12 | 11½@ 12 |
| Nos. 13 to 14 | 12½@ 13½ |
| Nos. 15 to 17 | 13@ 13½ |
| Nos. 18 to 20 | 13½@ 14¼ |
| Cuba Muscovado | |
| Fair to grd | 11½@ 11½ |
| Fair to grd gr. | 11½@ 12 |
| Prime to ch'e | 12½@ 12½ |
| New Orleans | @ |
| Portland | @ |
| Powdered | 15@ 15½ |
| Coffee crush | 13½@ 14 |
| Refined | @ |
| Good b'nds | 150 00@160 00 |

**TALLOW.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Rendered, ₩ ℔ | 12 |
| Rough | 8@ 9½ |

**TEA.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Gunpowder | 1 15@ 1 90 |
| Imperial | 1 15@ 1 90 |
| Hyson | 1 00@ 1 60 |
| Young Hyson | 95@ 1 75 |
| Congou | 75@ 1 50 |
| Hyson skin | 80@ 1 00 |
| Twankay | 80@ 1 00 |
| Souchong | 75@ 1 50 |
| Oolong | 67½@ 1 60 |

**TOBACCO.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Leaf Choice | 15@ 16½ |
| Good West'n | 11½@ 14½ |
| Common | 9@ 11 |
| Inferior | 7@ 9 |
| Cuba | 75@ 1 10 |
| Tara | 75@ 1 10 |
| Seed Leaf | 15@ 65 |
| Manufactured | In bond |
| Bright work, com | 20@ 30 |
| Good | 40@ 50 |
| Fine | 75@ 85 |
| Black work, com | 19@ 25 |
| Good | 30@ 40 |
| Fine | 28@ 30 |

**WOOL.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ohio and Pennsylvania | |
| Picklock | 62@ 65 |
| Choice XX | 55@ 60 |
| Fine X | 49@ 52 |
| Medium | 48@ 50 |
| Coarse | 43@ 45 |
| Mich., N. Y. & Vt. | |
| Extra | 48@ 50 |
| Fine | 47@ 49 |
| Medium | 47@ 49 |
| Coarse | 46@ 48 |
| Other Western | |
| Fine and X | 46@ 48 |
| Medium and | 45@ 46 |
| Common | 43@ 46 |
| Pulled Extra | 42@ 55 |
| Superfine | 42@ 45 |
| No. 1 | 30@ 43 |
| California | 22@ 36 |
| Mestiza | |
| Do. Combing | 70@ 75 |
| Smyrna w'sh | 20@ 22 |
| Unwashed | 40@ 42 |
| Buenos Ayres | 29@ 40 |
| C. Good Hope | 37@ 43 |
| Chilian | |
| Unwashed | 23@ 30 |
| Syrian | |
| Unwashed | @ .. |
| Peruvian | |
| Wash'd Coes | @ |
| African wshd | @ |
| Unwashed | 15@ 18 |
| East India | @ |

## MINIATURE ALMANAC.

For the week commencing Feb. 7, 1869.

| Days of the Week. | Sun Rises. | Sun Sets. | Moon Rises. | Length Days. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SUNDAY, | 7 7 | 5 23 | 4 16 | 10 16 |
| MONDAY, | 7 6 | 5 24 | 5 7 | 10 18 |
| TUESDAY, | 7 5 | 5 25 | 5 52 | 10 20 |
| WEDNESDAY, | 7 3 | 5 26 | sets | 10 23 |
| THURSDAY, | 7 2 | 5 29 | 5 49 | 10 26 |
| FRIDAY, | 7 0 | 5 29 | 6 38 | 10 29 |
| SATURDAY, | 6 58 | 5 30 | 7 30 | 10 31 |

## Marine Items.

**DISASTERS, &c.**

Barque Mosart, (N G) at New York for Buenos Ayres, while being towed from Martin's stores, near Fulton Ferry into the river, during the fog of Saturday morning, was run into by the steamer Electra, from Providence. The Mosart was badly damaged about the bows, obliging her to return for repairs. The steamer did not receive any serious damage.

Barque Scotland, Marshall, of and from Boston, Jan 23, for New Orleans, was towed into Newport, 30th, by New York pilot boat J D Jones, in distress. Capt Marshall reports as follows: On the night of Jan 23d, when off Cape Cod, experienced a sudden shift of wind from S W to N W, which striking the sails aback, carried away foretop gallant mast and foretopsail yard, with everything attached, and sprung fore and mizzen topmasts so as to render them unfit for service; stove boat, lost blocks and all running gear. In this disabled condition was fallen in with on the 24th, on Georges Banks, by New York pilot boat J D Jones, which hooked on to her 23th, and towed her into Newport.

Brig B Ingmac, Gray, at New York from Port au Prince, reports N W gales the entire passage. Jan 4, lat 21 30, lon 74 20 W, passed the stern part of a vessel of about 300 tons burthen, about 50 feet long, painted black, with white stripe and bright rail; had the appearance of a vessel that had been ashore and broken in two.

Fishing schr Charles F Beebe, Rogers, at New York from Georges Banks, reports when off City Island, carried away maintopmast.

Schr E & L Marts, Marts, at Savannah from Boston, carried away the foresail and standing jib in a heavy breeze on the 28 W.

Schr John Johnson, of Philadelphia, McBride, from Boston, Jan 19, for Havana, was towed into Newport on the morning of Jan 31st, by New York pilot boat No 8, dismasted. Capt McBride reports that on the night of the 19th, off Cape Cod, wind moderate, a heavy sea running, vessel rolling heavily, carried away foremast close to the deck, which was lost, with everything attached, and also maintopmast. Rigged temporary head sails with the hope of getting the vessel into port, and after drifting about 11 days was towed into Newport. Has also been leaking badly. Shoals, which hooked on to her and towed her into Newport.

**WHALERS.**

Sld from Provincetown Dec 19, schr J H Collins, Ryder, Atlantic Ocean.

Sld from Sydney, N S W, Dec 2, barque Fanny, Mayhew, on a whaling voyage.

At Bay of Islands, Oct 20, ship Marengo, Little, New Bedford, with 730 bbls sp and 270 do wh oil, all told; would sail same day to cruise; barque Emma C Jones, Gifford, do, oil not reported.


POVERTY IS BAD, but the worst kind of poverty is poverty of the blood; this makes a man "poor indeed," for in this condition he cannot get work, and if he can't, but enrich the blood with its vital element, *Iron*, by taking the Peruvian Syrup (a protoxide of Iron), and you will feel rich and "as good as anybody." Try it. s

FOR AN IRRITATED THROAT, Cough or Cold, *Brown's Bronchial Troches* are offered with the fullest confidence in their efficacy. They have been thoroughly tested, and maintain the good reputation they have justly acquired. *As there are imitations, be sure to obtain the genuine.* p


## MARRIAGES.

In Manchester, Me., Jan 26, by Rev. Joseph Hawkes, James H. Hallet of Boston, to Sarah Louisa, daughter of Winslow Hawkes of Manchester, Me.

In Cambridge, Jan 28, by Rev. C. W. Anable, D. D., Mr. James H. Barbour to Miss Lizzie M. Morgan, all of Cambridge.

In Medford, Jan 24, by Rev. James T. McCollom, Mr. Marquis D. Nims to Miss Ellen M. Pratt, both of M.

In Chester, N. H., Jan 27, by J. J. Tomlinson, Mr. William S. Greenough of Boston, to Miss Elizabeth McFarland Noyes, daughter of Hon. John W. Noyes of Chester.

## DEATHS.

In Chelsea, Jan 30, Mrs. Rachel Davenport, formerly of Canton, 68.

In East Cambridge, Jan 29, Mrs. Myra B., wife of Abiel Goss, 67.

In Jamaica Plain, Jan 29, Maria W. Copeland, 64.

In Bricksburg, N. J., V. S. Holt of Cambridge, Mass., 43 years.

In Lynn, Jan 29, Sidney B. Pratt, 54 yrs 8 mos.

In Newburyport, Jan 29, Mrs. Nancy Wells, wife of Abijah Greenwood, 66 yrs 6 mos 15 days.

In Haverhill, Jan 21, Arthur Lee Drew, 40 years, son of the late Dr. Thomas Drew of Plymouth.


## New Advertisements.

### Rare Chance to Buy

**A LARGE FARM OF 120 ACRES,**

IN SUTTON, MASS.,

Situated two miles south of the center of the town, in close communication with several manufacturing villages, which furnish a good market for produce. The Farm consists of four acres of upland mowing, the balance divided into pasturing and tillage. The mowing land is free from stone, and all can be worked with machinery. There are from 800 to 1000 Peach trees in bearing and coming condition. There is a Vineyard and Pear Orchard, of at least one hundred trees, comprising Grapes in one and Pear Trees of the choicest varieties, and other small fruits. The buildings are new, all painted and blinded. The House is two stories high, with L 16 by 40, containing woodhouse, carriage house, &c. The Barn is 40 by 60—30 feet posts—with cellar under whole. No expense has been spared to make the conveniences of the barn and other buildings with all the modern improvements. This is an opportunity for any person to purchase a good Farm at a bargain, and it should be well examined to be appreciated.

For full particulars address M. E. CROSSMAN, on the premises, Sutton, Mass., or apply to F. M. CROSSMAN, Proprietor of Clinton House, Clinton, Mass. feb6-6t*

### Canton Lecture Association.

EDWARD A. SAMUELS, Esq., will deliver the next Lecture before the Canton (Mass.) Lecture Association, at the Orthodox Church, South Canton, on TUESDAY Evening, February 9th, instant, at 8 o'clock. Subject.—"Song Literature of the Middle Ages."

feb6-1t

### Notice to Road Builders.

THE SUBSCRIBERS WILL RECEIVE PROPOSALS until

**Saturday, the 20th day of February,**

inst., for making special repairs and alterations in the road from Bedford proper to Lexington, through the Northerly part of the town of Lincoln, in compliance with the order of the County Commissioners of the County of Middlesex.

For further information apply to either of the subscribers.

JAMES L. CHAFIN, } Selectmen
GEORGE HARTWELL, } of
FRANCIS SMITH, } Lincoln.

Lincoln, Feb. 1, 1869. feb6-2t*

### Removal.

**A. L. BRYANT & CO., NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING AGENTS,**

Have removed to their new Office,

**131 Washington St.**

Opposite the Old South Church, where they hold themselves in readiness to forward advertisements to all the leading papers in the country. feb6-4t

### For Sale,

**SHORT HORN BULLS AND HEIFERS**

OF the *best milking* families. Also a few Jersey Heifers. E. GOODMAN, feb6-1t Lenox, Mass.

### Ives' Vegetable and Flower Seeds,

DANVERS ONION, Cabbage, Beet, and many other varieties of choice, reliable Seeds. Send for Catalogue to JOHN S. IVES, Seed Grower, feb6-4t Salem, Mass.

### Muscovy Ducks.

ABOUT Twenty DUCKS and DRAKES of the above breed, will be sold or exchanged for pure Rowen or Aylsbury Ducks. Apply to BENAJAH PHILLIPS, 89 Lewis Street, Lynn, Mass. feb6-1t*

### Wanted.

AN American Man and Wife to live on and take care of a small Farm and Garden, Horse, Cow, &c. House rent free. Address Box 5384 Boston, Mass. feb6-4t

### Italian Queen Bees,

SENT by Mail, Postage Paid, for $2 50 each. Purity and safe arrival guaranteed. H. ALLEY, feb6-3t* Wenham, Mass.

### Look Here Farmers!

*MAKE YOUR OWN MANURE.*

I WILL deliver during February, March and April, Fish Offal at the cars in Gloucester, for $5 a ton. It is three times the strength of the common Fish Guano put up in barrels, and for the best Manure known for trees, vines, vegetables of all kinds and grass land, lasting for years. Farmers can make their own Manure for about $6 or $10 a ton. I have known of four tons of hay being cut from one acre of land where this Manure has been applied. All orders promptly attended to.

GEORGE M. WONSON, feb6-1t East Gloucester, Mass.

### Waters'

**NEW SCALE PIANOS.**

*With Iron Frame, Overstrung Bass & Agraffe Bridge,*

Melodeons and Cabinet Organs,

*The best Manufactured; Warranted for six years.*

Fifty Pianos, Melodeons and Organs of six first class makers, *at greatly reduced prices for Cash*, or one-third cash and the balance in Monthly Instalments. Second hand Instruments at great bargains. Illustrated Catalogue mailed. Warerooms, 481 Broadway, New York. HORACE WATERS. ap4-1yp

### TO THE EDITOR OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN:—Es-

*teemed Friend:* We have a positive cure for Consumption and all disorders of the Lungs and Throat, it cured the inventor and hundreds of acquaintances, we will send a sample *free* to any sufferer who will address us, SAYRE & CO., Corner Broadway and Fulton Streets, New York. feb6-8t

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AN ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY OF SIXTEEN HANDSOME FOLIO PAGES, FOR THE

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AND

**HARRIET BEECHER STOWE,**

assisted by a corps of able editors and contributors in all departments.

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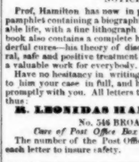

One-fourth Natural Size.

**"GENERAL GRANT."**

WE take pleasure in announcing to the public that we have secured the entire stock of this justly celebrated Tomato. We believe it the nearest approach to perfection of anything of the kind yet offered, combining more superior qualities.

Size, above the medium, three to four inches in diameter, growing in clusters; form round, slightly flattened, very regular, symmetrical, and rarely ribbed or wrinkled; color brilliant glossy crimson; flesh unusually firm, solid and free from water, weighing from 16 to 20 pounds more per bushel than other varieties; skin remarkably fine, smooth, and shining, coloring well up to the stem,—a quality very desirable to those procuring them for the table; very productive and of the finest flavor; bears carriage well and keeps in good condition a long time after being gathered, retaining its goodness, and free from wilting.

*Andrew S. Fuller, author of Small Fruit Culturist.*

We have had an opportunity of testing this Tomato the past season, and believe it will prove to be one of the very best varieties in cultivation.

*C. N. Brackett, Ch'm'n of the Veg. Com. Mass. Hort. Soc*

I have grown the new Tomato, Gen. Grant, a fair trial of two seasons, in connection with a dozen or more of the new varieties recently introduced, such as the Cook's Favorite, Tilden, Valencia, Cluster, Keyes, Excelsior, Maupay, Foard, Cedar Hill, &c., and find it surpasses them all in earliness, productiveness and all the qualities which I consider requisite in a first class market variety, and can heartily recommend it. No person, I think, who makes any of the above named varieties his standard of excellence, will, after giving this variety one season's trial, grow any other. Its extraordinary beauty and singular richness of color command the attention of the most careless observer.

*C. Bates, of Kingston, originator of Bates' Early.*

The Gen. Grant Tomato I have tried with several other varieties, viz: Cedar Hill, Foard, Tilden, Keyes, Bates' Early. The Gen. Grant beat all in every case except Bates' Early: with that it was about "neck-and-neck." But for beauty

## The Poet's Corner.

YOUR HOUSE.

BY MRS. M. A. KIDDER.

Be true to yourself at the start, young man,
Be true to yourself and God;
Ere you build your house, mark well the spot,
Test all the ground, and build you not
On the sand or the shaking sod.

Dig, dig the foundations deep, young man,
Plant firmly the outer walls;
Let the props be strong and the roof be high,
With an open turret toward the sky,
Through which the dews may fall.

Let this be the room of your soul, young man,
When shadows shall herald care—
A chamber with never a roof or thatch
To hinder the light, or door, or latch,
To shut in the spirit's prayer!

Build slow and sure, 'tis for life, young man,
A life that outlives the breath—
For who shall gainsay the Holy Word?
"Their works do follow them," saith the Lord,
"Therein there is no death."

Build deep, and high, and broad, young man,
As the needful case demands—
Let your little deeds be clear and bright,
Till you enter your claim to the Lord of Light,
For the house not made with hands.

## Ladies' Department.

### THE "UNSTEADY HAND."

A THRILLING TEMPERANCE TALE.

[By the author of Ten Nights in a Bar Room.]

"There is a greater curse than drunkenness," said Dr. Grantley.

"It may be so," I answered, "but it so happens that I am not aware of its name or existence.

"Moderate drinking," said the Doctor, with an emphasis of tone and manner that showed him to be very much in earnest.

Dr. Grantley was somewhat of an enthusiast on the subject of temperance, yet a clear, strong thinker. I did not expect from him any special pleading or begging of the question.

"I would like . . . how you make good the assertion," I replied.

"Nothing is easier. The fact is so plain, that I am surprised it is not seen by every one."

"I am all attention, make it plain to me," said I.

"You do not trust a drunkard in any responsible position," he replied. "You would not, if he were a lawyer, give an important cause into his hands; nor if he were a surgeon, risk him with a delicate operation. Known drunkards are not put in command of ships, nor in charge of steam engines, nor assigned to places where life, property, or important interests are at stake. Once class a man with drunkards, and you narrow his influence, both for good or evil, to a small circle. You rule him out of the great world of action, and render him comparatively harmless. He is his own worst enemy—disgusting to all around him; but of this much use, that he is a living expounder of the evils of intemperance, teaching by example their saddest and most humiliating lesson.

"But your respectable, virtuous high-minded, moderate drinkers," the Doctor continued, "hold to society a very different relation. They command your ships and armies; they are your lawyers, your surgeons, your engineers, your merchants and manufacturers, with whom you risk your goods and money. You trust them with your highest and best worldly interests. And it never occurs to you that they drink, sometimes tarry long at the wine; and may, in some fatal moment, when a clear head or steady hand is the only guaranty of success or safety, hurt you, through a slight and temporary incapacity, beyond repair."

I drew a long, deep breath, as the magnitude of a danger I had not thought of looming up before me with an almost appalling distinctness.

"While we count the drunkards who are not trusted, by tens," said the Doctor, "we may count this other class, who hold our lives and property in their hands, by thousands."

I observed that Dr. Grantley's voice had in it a low thrill, and that he was unusually disturbed. "You feel strongly on this subject," said I.

"There is cause," he answered dropping his tones, and bending his head forward, as though a weight had fallen on it suddenly. He was silent for an unusually long time.

"I will give you," he said at length, "an illustration of what I mean. Are you at leisure for half an hour."

"Entirely at your service."

"I drink nothing stronger than tea or coffee, as you are aware. Once I took my glass of wine at dinner and in social circles. It was genteel; had in it a smack of good breeding, and familarity with society. I cultivated the little vanities of connoisseurship, and talked in the usual self-satisfied way of brands, vintages, flavors and the like, as fluently as any one. I had, so to speak, all the wine lingo at my finger ends, and was not a little proud of the accomplishment.

"My special work, as you know, is surgery; a work that, of all others, requires the clear head and steady hand. There are occasions when, if the knife passes by a hundredth part of an inch from the right direction, a fatal result is inevitable. We cut down into the quivering flesh, and grope about darkly amid sensitive nerves, and life-flooded arteries, with death waiting eagerly for some fatal breach in the delicate organism.

We hear frequent allusions made to steadying the nerves with wine or brandy. I was sufficiently well acquainted with the action of this class of stimulants on myself, to know that even for at least twenty-four hours prior to the performance of the lightest surgical operation. I would have regarded as criminal the taking of a glass of wine just before using the scalpel, because it's effect would have been to disturb the free and rapid directions of my will to the cutting hand, hindering, confusing, and it might be rendering death certain where I was trying to save life.

I know that it is the custom with some surgeons to steady their nerves with wine or brandy before going to the operating table; but I think it will be found in nearly all of these cases that the habitual use of these articles has substituted an artificial for a normal steadiness of nerve, and that the stimulant has become a necessity through abuse. It is said of professional gamblers that many of them rigidly abstain from drink in order to secure clear heads and steady hands for their infamous work. The surgeon, of all other men, should profit by their example."

"Did it not occur to you," I said, "that in your own social use of wines you were gradually substituting this general artificial steadiness of nerve for the natural and healthy, and that, in time, your abstinence preliminary to using the knife, might defeat the end in view? That nature might not rally her forces quick enough after the withdrawal of substitutes?"

"Yes; this very thought that you suggest did often present itself; but I pushed it aside. It was not agreeable; and I would not look it calmly in the face. I had come to like the taste of wine, and to enjoy a social glass of wine with my friends.

"Surgery was my first love, and I pursued its study and practice with an interest and ardor that never abated. My opportunities were good, and I made the best of them. After acting as assistant in a large hospital for two years, I went to Paris and Vienna, spending two years in the admirably conducted hospitals of those cities under circumstances of special advantage. Returning, I entered at the age of twenty-six, the practice of my profession. In five years I had established a reputation as wide as the country. Many of my operations, some of them almost unheard of in the profession, were repeated in our own, and transferred to foreign, medical journals. I had more than the fame I coveted.

"There was a period in my professional life, when scarcely a day passed without some call on me for the skill that lay in my practiced hand; and scarcely a week without some prolonged and difficult or dangerous operation. The strain on my nerves was very great; the amount depending very much on the character and condition of my patients, and the degree of risk involved.

"It was about this time, when reports of my brilliant operations were spoken of as a perpetual surprise, that the event occurred which I am about to relate.

"I had a friend older by several years, with whom I had long been intimate. He had watched my professional debut and career with an interest as deep as he could have felt in a brother; and he was very proud of my success. One day he came to my office, and, after a word or two, said, a look of concern settling over his face—I wish you would call in and examine a lump on Miriam's neck.'

He spoke of his wife.

"'What kind of a lump?' I asked.

"'It is about the size of a walnut, and is increasing in size, I think, quite rapidly.'

"'It may be only the temporary swelling of a gland,' I remarked, with assumed indifference. 'Is it sore to the touch?'

"'Not in the least; but Miriam begins to complain of a sense of obstruction, as if there were pressure on a blood vessel. I've wished to speak to you about it for some time, but she would not consent.'

"'Only about the size of a walnut?" I inquired.

"'Maybe a little larger, though not much.'

"I will call around this afternoon and look at it," said I. 'Tell Mrs. Baldwin to expect me about four o'clock. You will be at home?'

"'Oh yes,' he replied, and turned to go. But there were questions in his mind that he could not leave without asking. 'Doctor,' he said, coming back and sitting down, "this may seem a very small matter in your eyes, but I am seriously troubled. It is no swelling of a gland, but a tumor. Of that I am satisfied.'

"He looked searchingly into my face.

"'What is the exact location?' I asked.

"'On a line with the ear, and just above the collar bone.'

"We were both silent for a time.

"'As I said, Doctor,' my friend resumed, 'this thing has troubled me from the beginning. It rests like a heavy weight on my spirits. It shadows me with a strange foreboding. I am foolish, perhaps.'

"'Over sensitive about anything that touches one so dear as your wife,' I answered, with a smile. 'It is natural. But don't give yourself needless anxiety. Tumors in the neck are usually benignant, as we say, and surgical skill ensures their safe removal.'

"'Can they not be extirpated without using the knife?' he asked—'re-absorbed by a restored healthy action of the parts?'

"'In rare instances this has occurred. But there is no established treatment on which we can rely. In my own practice, I have not met with a single case where a well developed tumor was re-absorbed by a normal action of the parts.'

"'At four o'clock this afternoon, Doctor,' Mr. Baldwin arose.

"'At four promptly,' I answered. And he went away.

"Mrs. Baldwin received me with a quiet cheerfulness of manner, saying—'My husband is apt to worry himself about little things as you are aware.'

"Her composure was only assumed; I felt that as her hand lay in mine. My first diagnosis was not satisfactory. The doubts that troubled me. The swelling was clearly outlined, but not so sharply protuberant as I had been led to suppose by the likeness to a walnut which my friend had suggested. I feared, from its shape and presentation at the surface, and also from the fact that the patient complained of a sense of pressure on the vessels of the neck, that the tumor was deeply seated, and much larger than my friend had suspected. But I was most concerned as to its character. Being hard and perceptibly nodulated, there was in my mind an apprehension that it might prove malignant in character, and the apprehension was made stronger by the fact that my patient had a scrofulous diathesis.

"There was no congestion of the veins, nor discoloration of skin around the hard protuberance; no pulsation, elasticity, fluctuation or soreness. Only a solid lump that I recognized as the small section or lobule of a deeply seated tumor, already beginning to press upon and obstruct the blood vessel. It might be fibrous or albuminous—benignant or malignant; which, in this my first diagnosis, I was not able to determine. But for the constitutional habit of my patient, I should have concluded favorably.

"It was not easy to veil my concern from Mr. Baldwin, who followed me down stairs, after I had finished the examination, and plied me with eager questions.

"'Deal plainly with me, Doctor,' he said. 'I wish to know exactly what you think. Don't conceal anything.'

"His blanching lips, and voice pitched to a low key that its tremor might be hidden, told plainly enough that I must conceal every apprehension that troubled me.

"It presents all the indications of what we call a fibrous tumor,' said I.

"'Are they of a malignant type?' he asked, with suspended breath.

"'No; they are entirely harmless but for their mechanical pressure on surrounding vessels, tissues and organs.'

"He caught his breath with a deep sigh of relief; then asked—

"'Is there any danger in their removal?"

"'None,' I replied.

"'Have you ever taken a tumor from the neck?' he asked.

"'More than a dozen.'

"'Were you always successful?'

"'Always.'

"His breath came more freely. Then after a little pause, he said—

"'There will have to be an operation in this case?' I saw his lips grow white again.

"'I fear that it cannot be avoided.'

"'There is one comfort,' Mr. Baldwin remarked, his voice rallying to an almost cheerful tone, 'the tumor is small, and evidently superficial in its character. The knife will not have to go very deep among the arteries, veins and nerves so thickly gathered about the neck.'

"I did not correct his error.

"'How long will it take?' he next queried.

"'Not very long,' I answered evasively.

"'Ten minutes?'

"'Yes; perhaps a little longer.'

"'She will not be conscious of pain?'

"'No; no more conscious than if she were a sweetly sleeping infant.'

"Mr. Baldwin walked nervously the whole length of the parlor twice; then stood still in front of me.

"'Doctor,' he said, solemnly, 'I place her in your hands. She will consent to anything I may conclude it best to do. We have entire confidence in your judgment and skill.'

"He stopped short, and turned partly away to hide excess of feeling. Rallying after a moment, he continued, with a forced smile on his lips—

"'To your professional eyes I show unmanly weakness. But, you must bear in mind how very dear she is, Doctor! It makes me shiver in every nerve to think of the knife going down into her tender flesh. You might cut me to pieces if that would save her,'

"'Your fears exaggerate the reality, Mr. Baldwin,' I replied. She will go into a deep sleep, and while she dreams pleasant dreams, we will simply dissect out the tumor, with all its foreign accumulations, and leave the healthy organs to continue their action under the old laws of unobstructed life.'

"'I am weak and foolish, I know,' he answered, 'but I can't help it. The whole thing touches too near home.'

"'As I was leaving, he said—' Doctor, how soon ought it to be done?'

"'The sooner the better,' I returned, 'after the hot weather is over. Say in October. In the meantime I will carefully watch its growth and condition.'

"My next examination of the tumor, made in about a fortnight, satisfied me that it was deeply seated, and probably as large as a small orange. The protruding portion was only a small lobe of the foreign body. A substance so large, and of so hard a texture, must necessarily cause serious displacement of the blood-vessels, nerves, glands, and muscles of the neck, and render an early extirpation necessary to save life. In the two weeks there had been perceptible growth.

"During the next two months I saw Mrs. Baldwin frequently, and noticed with concern increasing signs of pressure on the carotids indicated by a slight suffusion of the face. The middle of October was set down as the time when the operation should be made. As the period approached, I felt a nervous dread about the case. I had consulted the most distinguished surgeon in the city, my senior by over fifteen years. His diagnosis agreed in every particular with my own. We were satisfied that it was a fibrous tumor, non-malignant, but so deeply cast among the great vessels, and probably so attached to their sheaths, as to render extirpation a difficult, and without great caution a dangerous operation.

"This was the only case, in all my practice, where I felt like transferring the responsibility to another. Not because of the difficulty—that would have only quickened my ardor—but because Mrs. Baldwin was the tenderly beloved wife of the oldest, warmest and truest friend I possessed; and I knew that personal feeling would come in, and might disturb the cool equilibrium of mind so essential to skill and steadiness of hand.

"As the time approached, my concern increased. So oppressive did this become that at last I sent for Mr. Baldwin, and seriously proposed that Dr. B———, the eminent surgeon to whom I have just xeferred, should be called on to perform the operation.

"'He is older, and has a larger experience,' I said. 'All the profession award to him the first place in our city, if not in the country.'

"'I have no doubt of his skill,' replied my friend, speaking in a firm decided way, 'but his skill is not supplemented with sobriety. You know that as well as I do. His habit of drinking too freely has become a thing of common notoriety, and is gradually destroying public confidence. Oh, no, Doctor! The hand that cuts down into her flesh must be steadied by healthy nerves, and not wine or brandy! I will not hear to it. The man is a drunkard—I call his habitual and excessive use of strong drinks by its right name—and so I set him aside. I will not run any risk with a drunkard. He hangs out a sign on which is written, Beware! I read it, and pass over the other side, getting out of the way of danger.'

"I felt strongly the force of all this, and said no more about Dr. B———. The day came at last. Ten o'clock was the hour at which the operation was to be performed. For two whole days I had strictly abstained from even a glass of wine, giving my nervous system that long period in which to recover the natural steadiness which might have been weakened through over action occasioned by stimulants.

"Mr. Baldwin called on me as early as eight o'clock. He was very nervous and oppressed by evil forebodings. The number and variety of the questions he had to ask, annoyed me; for I could not answer them truthfully, without adding to his over wrought fears. Not that I apprehended danger, for I was master of my profession, and knew the exact position of every artery, vein, nerve, gland and muscle among which I had to pass the scalpel. Nay, in order to make the assurance doubly sure, I had spent an hour in the dissecting room on the day before, giving to the anatomical organism of the neck a new and close examination. I had but to extirpate a tumor—badly located, it is true—and this any skillful surgeon might safely accomplish. A steady and confident hand, and favoring circumstances, were all that he required.

"I carefully concealed my annoyance under a light, almost playful exterior, and rallied him for his unmanly weakness—called the operation one of minor importance involving little risk. I could not reassure him, however. A shadow of coming evil rested darkly on his spirit.

"At ten o'clock, accompanied by three assistants, one of them a surgeon of tried skill, I repaired to the house of my friend. The white face and scared look of the servant who admitted us, and asked us to go up to the front chamber in the second story, was something familiar to my professional eyes, and did not in the least disturb the equipoise of mind essential to my work. In the hall above, Mr. Baldwin's trembling hand grasped mine with a silent pressure. "I smiled, and said good morning!" in an unconcerned voice and passed into the room where the operation was to be made. The table I had selected was there. Quickly and silently, acting from previous concert, we placed this table in the best relation to, and all things necessary to the work in hand, and then, after giving to this preparation the temporary concealment in our power, announced our readiness.

"In a moment after, Mrs. Baldwin entered from the adjoining chamber. She was a beautiful woman in the prime of life. Never had she looked more beautiful than now. Her strong will had mastered fear; and strength, courage and resignation looked out from her clear eyes, and rested on her firm lips.

"She smiled but did not speak. I took her by the hand and led her to the table on which she was to lie during the operation, saying as I did so—'It will all be over in a few minutes, and you won't feel it as much as a pin scratch.'

"As soon as she was in position, an assistant, according to arrangement, presented the sponge saturated with ether, and in two minutes complete anæsthesia was produced. On the instant I made the incision, and cut quickly down to the tumor. It was a hard, fibrous substance; and a few carefully made efforts to dissect it away from the surrounding parts, confirmed my previous opinion that it was large and deeply seated. But I understood my business, and was so entirely interested in what I was doing, that I forgot my patient's identity, and so pursued the work in hand with a concentration of thought and purpose that gave science and art their best result. It took full twenty-five minutes to separate the tumor from the blood vessels, nerves and muscles it had involved. At the end of thirty minutes, we bore our patient, still insensible, to her bed in the adjoining chamber, and laid her down gently, as one in quiet sleep—the ordeal safely over.

"I shall not forget the look of sweet thankfulness that came into her eyes, as, not long after, I told her that the operation so long dreaded had been safely performed.

"And I knew nothing of it!' she whispered; then added, shutting her eyes and speaking to herself—'It is wonderful! Thank God for this among other manifold blessings!'

As for my friend, he wrung my hands, and cried for excess of joy with unmanly weakness. A surgeon sees much of human nature on this side. My hand was in a tremor now and my nerves ajar. I went back to my office and took a glass of wine to steady them. Two hours afterwards I called on my patient and found her sleeping; and at four o'clock I called again. At five I was engaged to dine at the house of a professional friend, and meet some gentlemen from a neighboring city. Everything was, apparently, in a safe condition, and I went to my dinner engagement with a mind altogether at ease.

"Doctor ———, at whose house I dined that day, was what we call a good liver, and dainty in wines. He liked to talk of his well filled cellar, and of the brands and vintages from which it was stocked and he usually succeeded in transferring to his guests a measure of his own weakness. Contagion works easily in this direction. There were, on this occasion, four or five different kinds of wine on the table, and our host seemed to feel that in no better way could he manifest hospitality than in pressing us often to drink. The abstinence I had practised for a couple of days, and the relief of mind felt in consequence of the successful result of an operation I had almost dreaded to perform, naturally led me to a freer use of the tempting liquors that were set before us. As bottle after bottle was opened, and the vintage announced, we filled our glasses, sipped, praised and drank, greatly to the satisfaction of our host, who flattered himself that we were connoisseurs and full of admiration for his exquisite taste in selection.

"I was just lifting my fifth glass, when a servant, stooping to my ear, said: 'Doctor, you are called for in haste.'

"Rising, I asked to be excused for a moment, and went down stairs. One of my students was in the hall.'

"'What is it, Harding?' I asked.

"'An artery in Mrs. Baldwin's neck has commenced bleeding, and they have sent for you to come as quickly as possible.'

"Have you my instrument case?' I inquired.

"'Yes, sir.'

"And the carriage?'

"'Yes, sir.'

"'Ether?'

"'Everything that can be needed,' he answered.

"'Thank you, Harding! Thank you! Your thoughtful promptness has saved much time. I hurried into the carriage with my student and drove rapidly to the house of Mr. Baldwin.

"If I could have forgotten the fact of having taken so freely of wine, the stimulant of the occasion might have overridden the excess, and given me the steady hand and clear mental poise so much needed now. But, so far from forgetting, the fact forced itself with a shock into my consciousness, and with almost a shiver of alarm, I noticed a mental confusion and want of physical command, that unfitted me for any use of the surgeon's knife. But the exigency was pressing. I could not tell until I saw my patient, how copious the hemorrhage might be, nor how immediate the danger.

"Mr. Baldwin met me on my entrance, looking greatly alarmed.

"'Oh, Doctor! I'm so glad you have come. I was afraid she might bleed to death.'

"'No danger of that,' I answered with feigned unconcern. 'Some small artery, not well ligated, has given way, and will have to be tied again.'

"Ah!' if he could have seen the low shiver running along my nerves, as the closing words of the sentence struck my own ears! Not that the re-ligation of an artery under the circumstances was a very difficult or serious affair. It was my condition that made the case one of extreme peril.

"Don't think," said the Doctor, "that I was what is called 'the worse for wine.' Under almost any other circumstances, except those thrust upon me so unexpectedly, I should hardly have noticed a difference of sensation or condition."

He paused, wiping the sweat from his forehead. Then resumed:

"I found, on reaching my patient, that one of the largest of the small arteries I had deemed it necessary to cut in separating the tumor from surrounding tissues, was bleeding freely. Half a dozen handkerchiefs and napkins had already been saturated with blood. The case demanded prompt treatment; I must open the wound, find the artery, and tie it again.

"Ether was promptly given, and as soon as the patient was fairly under its influence, I removed the dressings, and cut the few sutures with which I had drawn the wound together. The cavity left by the tumor was full of blood. After removing this with sponges, I could see, at the extreme lower part of the orifice, a free jet of blood, and knew just the artery that must again be taken up and tied. The surrounding parts had swollen, thus embedding the mouth of the artery, and I could not recover it without cutting deeper. To this I proceeded, but with a nervous unsteadiness of hand such as I had never experienced in all my professional life; a nervousness increased by the knowledge of the fact that the internal jugular vein was only a few lines distant from the keen pointed edge of the bistoury with which I was cutting down to get at the bleeding artery.

"There came a single moment in which I lost a clear perception of what I was doing. I seemed smitten, suddenly, with both physical and mental blindness; as if some malignant spirit, coming nearer through the disordered condition wrought by unnatural stimulation, took possession of all my powers, and in an instant wrought an evil that no human agency could repair. A sound it had never been my misfortune to hear before—and I pray God I may never hear again—startled me to an agonizing sense of what my unnerved hand had done in a fatal moment of oblivion. Too well I knew the meaning of that loud, hissing, sucking and gurgling that smote my ear. I had wounded the jugular vein, and air was rushing in!

"If I had possessed full command of myself, as in the morning, imminent as the danger was, I should have been calm, and I think equal to the emergency. As it was, the new and perilous condition of my patient, that demanded prompt and intelligent action, paralyzed me for several moments, and I only aroused to a full apprehension of the case and its duties, by seeing the patient begin to struggle for breath as she inspired. Her face, which had been slightly flushed, became deadly pale and distressed.

"To close the wound I had made, and stop the influx of air, must be done immediately, or nothing could save her life. Already sufficient had run entered to alter the condition of the blood in the right cavities of the heart and prevent its free transmission to the lungs through the pulmonary arteries. Life and death hung on every instant of time. I grasped, blindly, for the wound, and when I found it, failed, in my terrible confusion, in a prompt application of pressure to the exact point.

"Too late! too late! I cannot dwell on the particulars! By the time I could close the fatal wound, the destroyer's work was done. I opened, in my despair—clear headed and firm handed enough now—the right jugular, and passing a flexible tube into the auricle, tried by suction to empty the heart of the air and blood which had been churned up there into a spumous mass. But too much time had been lost, and my patient was beyond the reach of human skill. She sank rapidly, and died."

"Dr. Grantley was strongly agitated. "In pity for myself I drop a veil over what followed," he said, after sitting for a long time like one in a dream. "Out from the agonizing past I have lifted this fearful thing that it may stand as a lesson and a warning. If I had been a drunkard, no such catastrophe could have happened in my practice, for men will not trust a drunkard in any case where the issue is life or death. But I was a respectable, trusted, moderate drinker, able to take my four or five glasses of wine without betraying the fact to common observation; and so, too frequently in a state that unfitted me for the delicate and often dangerous operations I was at any moment liable to be called on to perform.

"From that day to this, no stimulating draught has passed my lips. If I am fanatical, as some have said, in the matter of temperance, you have the explanation. And now I reassert what I said in the beginning, that society is hurt more by moderate drinking than by drunkenness—yea, a thousand fold more. Towards the drunkard we are ever on guard; but we take the moderate drinker into our closest confidence, and entrust him with our highest and dearest interests, and all the while, through a weak self-indulgence, he is consorting with an enemy that enters when we open our doors to welcome him, and in some unguarded and unsuspecting moment, injures us, as it may be, beyond repair!"—*Arthur's Home Magazine.*

### I'LL BE PRESIDENT.

The story goes, that after the inauguration of "Old Zach," as President, on the 4th March, 1849, the old Whig leaders in a meeting decided how the government should be managed under the new regime, and deputed Mr. Clay to inform the President of the programme. The great whig leader accordingly visited Gen. Taylor for the purpose, and in his silvery tones announced the fact that a conference had been held, and what conclusions it had reached as to the course proper for the new administration to pursue. The bluff old General sat, caressing the calf of one knee thrown over the other, and patiently listened to the eloquent Kentuckian till he finished his subject. Then looking up to his visitor he said: "Mr. Clay, you ought to have been President. I always told my friends so. You deserve the honor; you wanted the place; and I thought the people ought to have given it to you. But, Mr. Clay, the people thought differently, I am sorry to say. They made me President, and Mr. Clay, I have made up my mind that *I'll be President.*" It was not long before the Senator drew about him his ample and graceful cloak, and left.

☞ A gentleman in London fell in love with a portrait of a beautiful girl which he saw in a photographer's saloon, and declared he would make the original his wife. "You cannot do so," replied the photographer, "for she is only a servant." He vowed that this should make no difference. At last it was agreed that the gentleman should dine at the photographer's, that the girl should wait upon him, and that he should have an opportunity of seeing whether his admiration was deep enough to stand the sight of his goddess in cap and apron. It stood that test, and very soon the servant goddess became the wife. The relation of this story in a London paper is said to have already caused several pretty servant girls to offer their faces to photographers.

AN INGENIOUS DEVICE. A widow occupying a large house in a fashionable quarter of London went for a wealthy solicitor to make her will, by which she disposed of between £50,000 and £60,000. He proceeded soon after, was accepted, and found himself the happy husband of a penniles adventuress.

## Domestic Economy.

### VALUABLE RECIPES.

FROM LADY CONTRIBUTORS.

INDIAN MUFFINS.—At night, take two cups of Indian meal, one of flour, and one teaspoon of salt, turn hot but not boiling water upon them. Let it stand until morning, then add one egg and a teaspoon of soda dissolved. Beat together, and bake in muffin rings and serve hot.

SPONGE CAKE.—One tumbler of sugar, one of flour, four eggs, half a teaspoon of soda, one of cream tartar. Beat whites and yolks of eggs separately, adding the flour with soda and cream tartar last.

## Anecdotes.

PRACTICAL VS THEORETICAL. A college professor was being rowed across a stream in a boat. Said he to the boatman: "Do you understand philosophy?" "No, never he'erd of it." "Then one quarter of your life is gone." "Do you understand geology?" "No." "Then one half of your life is gone." "Do you understand astronomy?" "No," Then three quarters of your life are gone." But presently the boat tipped over and spilled both in the river. Says the boatman, "can you swim?" "No." "Then the whole of your life is gone."

☞ A celebrated lawyer and Governor of South Carolina had been employed to defend a fellow indicted for stealing a horse. The evidence was plain against him, but the Governor made such a powerful speech that the jury at once acquitted him. After he was turned loose he was accosted by a friend "Now, Jim, honor bright did you steal that horse?" "Well, Tom, for a long time I thought I stole him, but since I heard the Governor's speech I don't believe I did."

☞ S. C. Hall related the following anecdote at the dinner table of a distinguished poet in London: "A worldling was once visited, in his illness, by a well meaning but dolorous clergyman, who disfigured his countenance and wore a face of perpetual mourning. As his sad visage appeared in the doorway, the sick man started up and exclaimed: 'Why! what's the matter? You look as if your religion *didn't agree with you!*"

☞ "As to being conflicted with the gout," said Mrs. Partington, "high living don't bring it on. It is incoherent in some families, and is handed down from father to son. Mr. Hammer, poor soul, who has been so long ill with it, disinherits it from his wife's grandmother."

☞ "Why don't you limit yourself?" said a physician to an intemperate person. "Set down a stake that you will go so far and no farther."

"I do," replied the other, "but I set it so far off that I always get drunk before I get to it."


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